ancestry

Ray M. COPLEY

BIRTH 22 AUG 1920 • Ohio
DEATH 25 JUL 1943
uncle

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**
22 Aug 1920 • Ohio

Birth *(Alternate)*
abt 1921 • Ohio

Age 2 — **Birth of Brother George Elwood COPLEY** (1923–2001)
abt 1923 • Ohio

Age 2 — **Birth of Brother George Elwood COPLEY** (1923–2001)
09 Jan 1923 • Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 3 — **Birth of Sister Mary Jane COPLEY** (1924–1924)
07 Mar 1924 • Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio, USA

Age 3 — **Death of Sister Mary Jane COPLEY** (1924–1924)
04 Apr 1924 • Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio, USA

Age 5 — **Birth of Brother Charles C Copley** (1926–1976)
abt 1926 • Ohio

Age 5 — **Birth of Brother Charles C Copley** (1926–1976)
22 Jan 1926 • 5536 Auburn Ave., Portsmouth, Scioto, Ohio, USA

Age 6 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
02 Jun 1927 • Ohio

Age 6 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
02 Jun 1927 • Ohio, United States

Age 7 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
abt 1928 • Ohio

Family

Parents

Clyde R Copley
1894–1967

Cora Isabelle MARTIN
1897–1956

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources

1930 United States Federal Census

1940 United States Federal Census

Ancestry Family Trees

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Other Sources

Ancestry Family Trees

ancestry

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Clyde R Copley
1894–1967

Cora Isabelle MARTIN
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1930 United States Federal Census

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Ancestry Family Trees

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Other Sources

Ancestry Family Trees

Age 9 — **Birth of Sister Charlotte Marvelee COPLEY** (1929–2005)
13 Dec 1929 • Sciotoville, Ohio

Age 9 — **Birth of Sister Charlotte Marvelee COPLEY** (1929–2005)
abt 1930 • Ohio

Age 10 — **Residence**
1930 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio

Age 10 — **Residence**
1930 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head: Son

Age 11 — **Birth of Sister Joyce Alberta COPLEY** (1932–2015)
25 Mar 1932 • Ohio

Age 11 — **Birth of Sister Joy Roberta COPLEY** (1932–1939)
25 Mar 1932 • Ohio

Age 14 — **Birth of Brother Clarence "Robert" COPLEY** (1934–2008)
7 Oct 1934 • Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 15 — **Residence**
1935 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio

Age 19 — **Death of Sister Joy Roberta COPLEY** (1932–1939)
7 Sep 1939 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 19 — **Residence**
1 Apr 1940 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 19 — **Birth of Sister Wanda Jean COPLEY** (1940–2019)
14 May 1940 • Ohio, United States

Age 20 — **Military**
04 Mar 1941 • Huntington, Cabell, West Virginia, USA
Ray enlisted in the army as a Private in the Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers

Age 20 — **Military**
04 Mar 1941
World War II - 26 Inf. Reg 1st Div. USAGF

Age 22 — **Military**
25 Jul 1943
Sgt. Ray M. Copley KIA in World War II. 26 Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, U.S. Army.

Age 22 — **Death**
25 Jul 1943

Burial
1943 • Wheelersburg, Scioto County, Ohio, USA
Vernon Cemetery

Burial
Wheelersburg, Ohio, United States

Burial
Wheelersburg, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Vernon Cemetery

Residence
Scioto, Ohio

ancestry

Sgt Ray M Copley

in the U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

Saved to: COPLEY, Ray M. in tree "Brown, Watkins - Copley, Martin" Remove
COPLEY, Ray Martin in tree "Brown - Copley Tree" Remove

Go to website

Name:	Sgt Ray M Copley
Birth Date:	22 Aug 1920
Death Date:	25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:	Vernon Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Lyra, Scioto County, Ohio, United States of America
Has Bio?:	Y
URL:	https://www.findagrave.com/mem...

Save Cancel

Want to get involved? Click here!

Report issue

Suggested Records

- U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963
  Ray M Copley
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current
  Ray Martin Copley
- 1940 United States Federal Census
  Ray Copley

Write a comment.

Make a Connection

Find others who are researching Sgt Ray M Copley in Public Member Trees

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Original data: *Find A Grave*. Find A Grave. http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi.

Description

This database contains an index to cemetery and burial details posted on Find A Grave. Corrections and additions to memorials can be submitted on the Find A Grave site. When viewing a record in this database, you can navigate to the corresponding memorial on Find A Grave by clicking "Go to website" or clicking on the Find A Grave URL. Once viewing the memorial on Find A Grave, corrections can be submitted by clicking the 'edit' tab. Learn more...

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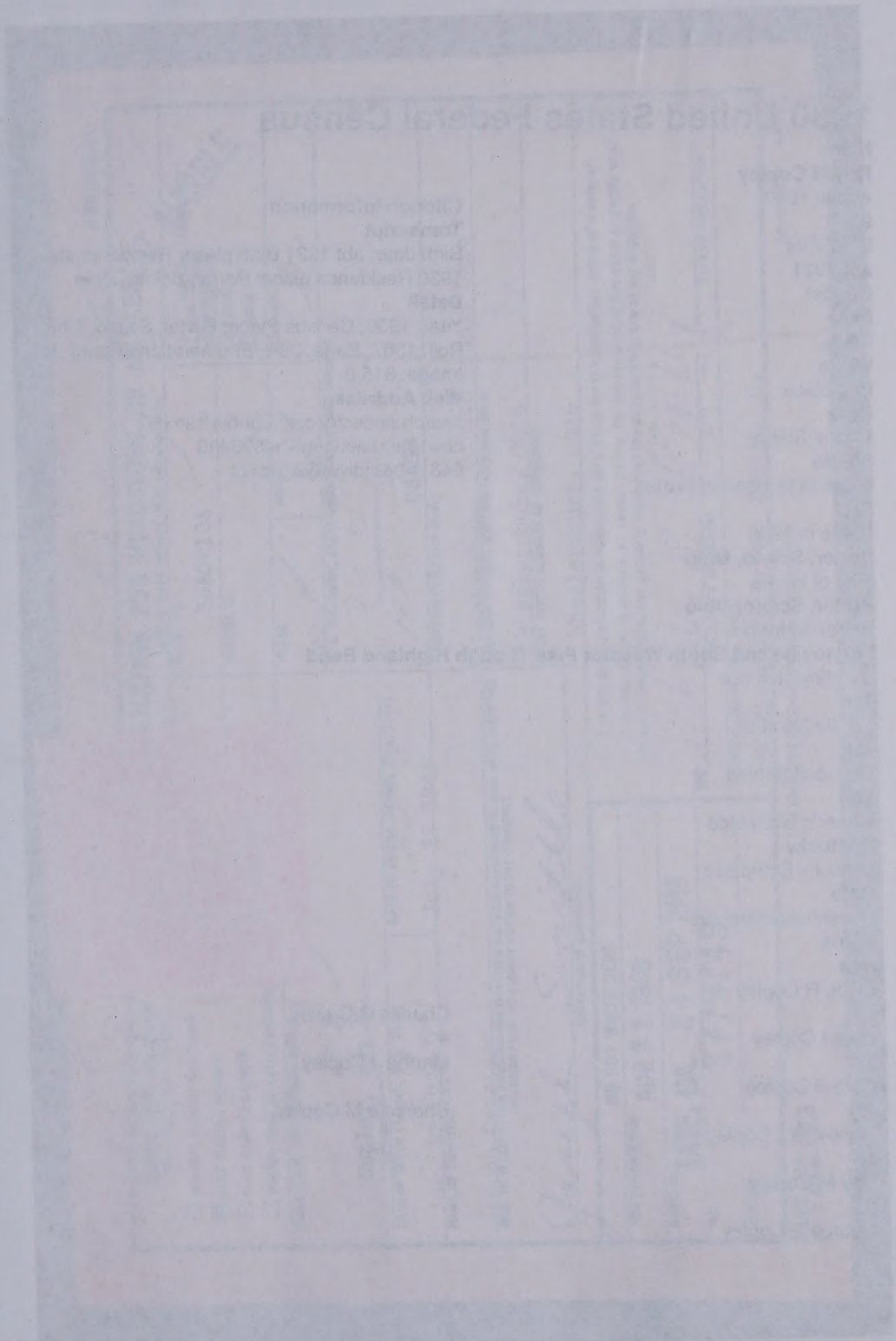
1940 United States Federal Census

Name
Ray Copley
Age
20
Estimated Birth Year
abt 1920
Gender
Male
Race
White
Birthplace
Ohio
Marital Status
Single
Relation to Head of House
Son
Map of Home in 1940
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Street
Bussey Road
Inferred Residence in 1935
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Residence in 1935
Same Place
Sheet Number
28B
Attended School or College
No
Highest Grade Completed
High School, 1st year
Weeks Worked in 1939
24
Income
300
Income Other Sources
0

Citation Information
Detail
Year: 1940; Census Place: Porter, Scioto, Ohio; Roll: T627_3142; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 73-18

Household Members

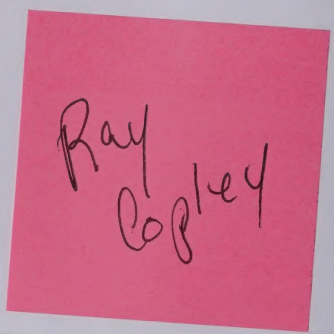
Name	**Age**
Clyde Copley	40
Cora Copley	42
Ray Copley	20
George Copley	17
Charles Copley	14
Martha Copley	12
Charlotte Copley	10
Joyce Copley	8
Clarence Copley	5



1930 United States Federal Census

Name
Roy M Copley
Age in 1930
9
Birth Year
abt 1921
Gender
Male
Race
White
Birthplace
Ohio
Marital Status
Single
Relation to Head of House
Son
Home in 1930
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Map of Home
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Street Address
Sciotoville and South Webster Pike Though Highland Bend
Dwelling Number
436
Family Number
438
Attended School
Yes
Father's Birthplace
Kentucky
Mother's Birthplace
Ohio
Household Members
Name
Age
Clyde R Copley
37
Cora I Copley
33
Cora B Copley
13
Genevive L Copley
11
Roy M Copley
9
George E Copley
7
Charles C Copley
4
Martha J Copley
2
Charlotte M Copley
0

Citation Information
Transcript
Birth date: abt 1921 Birth place: Residence date: 1930 Residence place: Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Detail
Year: 1930; Census Place: Porter, Scioto, Ohio; Roll: 1867; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 15; Image: 315.0.
Web Address
search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&h=69644964&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt



Via aka Dept 293 Rte D

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER

(Please make out and return in duplicate)

WW II

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See Instructions attached)

- ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE
- ☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER
- ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER
- ☐ BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)

FLAT MARBLE

ENLISTMENT DATE: 3/4/41

DISCHARGE DATE:

SERIAL No.: 35202103

PENSION No.:

EMBLEM (Check one)

- ☒ CHRISTIAN
- ☐ HEBREW
- ☐ NONE

STATE: Ohio

RANK: Sgt

COMPANY: D.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): Copley, Ray M

U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION: 26 Inf Reg. 1st Div. USAGF

DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year): Aug. 22 1922

DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year): July 25 1943

NAME OF CEMETERY: Vernon Cemetery

LOCATION (City and State): Wheelersburg Scioto County Ohio

SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY)

Joseph Smittle

(SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)

NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State): Wheelersburg, Ohio

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: Wheelersburg, Ohio

DO NOT WRITE HERE

FOR VERIFICATION: AUG 21 1948

ORDERED: TATE, GA. 24 SEP 1948

B/L: 3779749

SHIPPED

I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran.

I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.

X Clyde R. Copley

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

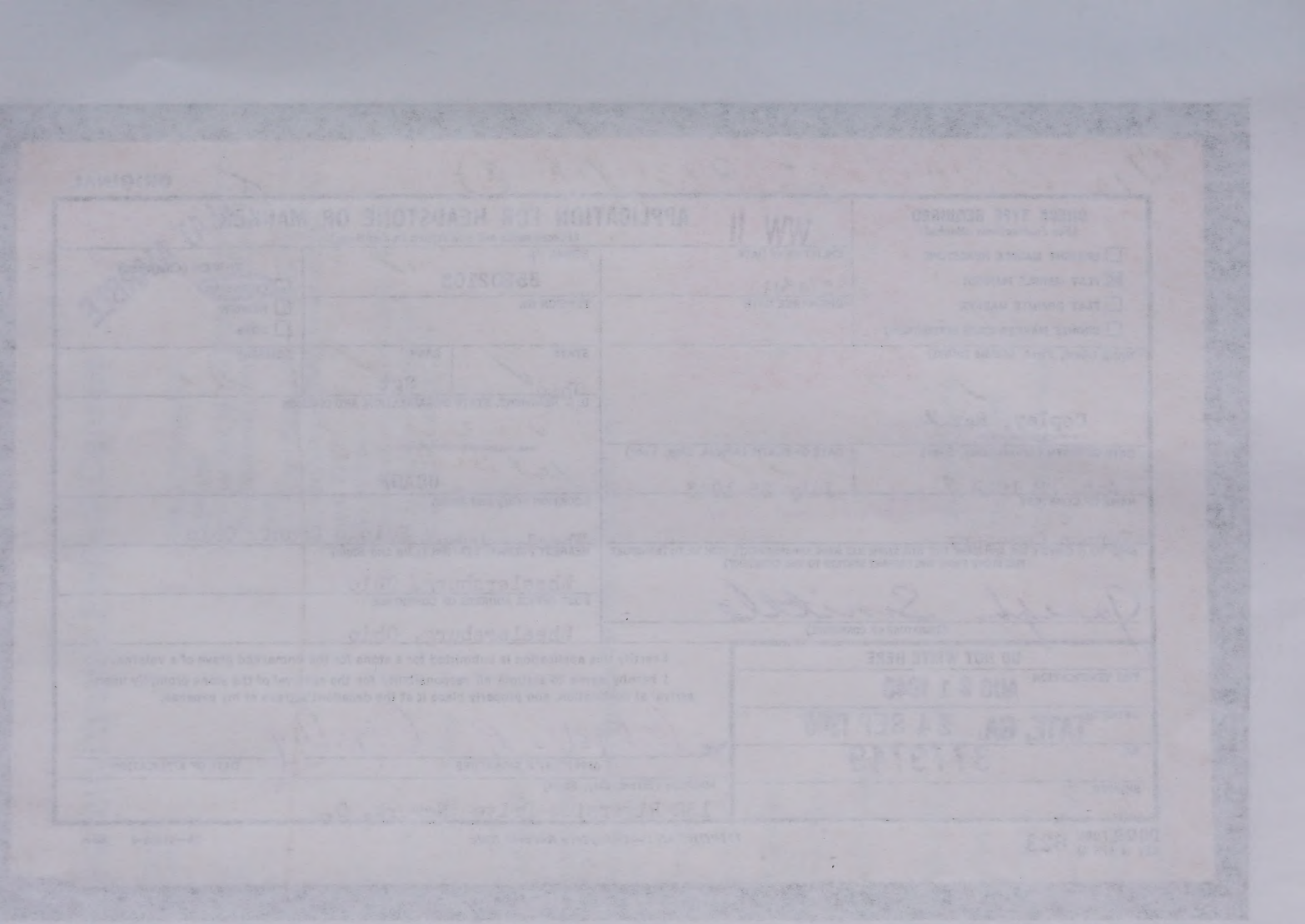
DATE OF APPLICATION

ADDRESS (Street, City, State): 152 Riverside Drive Newark, O.

OQMG FORM REV 15 APR 47 623

IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side

16—11453-6 GPO



fold3 by Ancestry https://www.fold3.com/image/318187914

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the type headstone or marker requested by the applicant will be permitted at the grave.

(Be sure you have noted what type is indicated by applicant on form)

Joseph Smittle.
(Signature of superintendent, sexton, or caretaker)

Date Aug 3-1948

16—11453-4

Return to: OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL,
MEMORIAL DIVISION,
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

fold3 by ancestry

https://www.fold3.com/image/318187906

Wm Aber dkpt 243 Pvt D

ORIGINAL

FLAT MARBLE

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER

(Please make out and return in duplicate)

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See Instructions attached)

- ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE
- ☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER
- ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER
- ☐ BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)

WW II

ENLISTMENT DATE: 3/4/41

DISCHARGE DATE:

SERIAL No.: 35202103

PENSION No.:

EMBLEM (Check One)

- ☒ CHRISTIAN
- ☐ HEBREW
- ☐ NONE

STATE: Ohio

RANK: Sgt

COMPANY: 2.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): Copley, Ray M

U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION: 26 Cav Reg. Int Unit. USAGF

DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year): Aug 22 1922

DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year): July 25 1943

NAME OF CEMETERY: Vernon Cemetery

LOCATION (City and State): Wheelersburg Scioto County Ohio

NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State): Wheelersburg, Ohio

SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY)

Joseph Smittle

(SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: Wheelersburg, Ohio

DO NOT WRITE HERE

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ORDERED: TATE, GA. 24 SEP 1948

B/L: 3779749

SHIPPED

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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE — DATE OF APPLICATION

ADDRESS (Street, City, State): 152 Riverside Drive Newark, O.

OQMG FORM REV 15 APR 47 623

IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side

16—11453-6 GPO

https://www.fold3.com/imagedownload.php?id=318187906&token=ubvipkKsG8SvJJ6LpNE4Xh0r...coN8bNRgPFjiP_2J2kPDf3YPHNKNpMNh6IyQ==&action=print&source=&complete=1495741837734

Via aka Dept 293 Ark D

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER

(Please make out and return in duplicate)

FLAT MARBLE

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See Instructions attached)

- ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE
- ☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER
- ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER
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ENLISTMENT DATE: 3/4/41

DISCHARGE DATE:

SERIAL No.: 35202103

PENSION No.:

EMBLEM (Check one)

- ☒ CHRISTIAN
- ☐ HEBREW
- ☐ NONE

STATE: Ohio

RANK: Sgt

COMPANY: 2.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): Copley, Roy M

U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION: 26 Inf Reg. 1st Div. USAGF

DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year): Aug. 22 1920

DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year): July 25 1943

LOCATION (City and State): Scioto County Ohio

NAME OF CEMETERY: Vernon Cemetery

NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State): Wheelersburg, Ohio

SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY)

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(SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: Wheelersburg, Ohio

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DATE OF APPLICATION

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ORDERED: TATE, GA. 24 SEP 1948

B/L: 3779749

SHIPPED

IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side

16—11453-6 GPO

OQMG FORM 623
REV 15 APR 47

Bill Beigel
WWII Researcher
(https://www.ww2research.com/)

(310) 791-3949
bill.beigel@ww2research.com
(mailto:bill.beigel@ww2research.com)

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Enter email...
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Thank you for submitting your Unit Records Research Request through WW2Research.com.

Your request has been submitted to WW2 Researcher Bill Beigel. You will hear back shortly with a quote or with additional questions about your research request.

Due to an increasingly high volume of requests, it is taking Bill and his research team longer to respond. Please be patient – we do respond personally to each and every submission and will reply to you as quickly as we can.

Thank you for your family's service and thank you for your patience!

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WW2 research.com

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Five From
The 15th Army Air Force, based in...

Debut for
It was the very first combat mission...

Wee Willie
Above is B-17 "Wee Willie"...

Honoring Lt. George H.

ancestry library edition

1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	**Roy M Copley [Ray M Copley]**
Gender:	Male
Birth Year:	abt 1921
Birthplace:	Ohio
Race:	White
Home in 1930:	Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Map of Home:	
Marital Status:	Single
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Father's Name:	Clyde R Copley
Father's Birthplace:	Kentucky
Mother's Name:	Cora I Copley
Mother's Birthplace:	Ohio

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Clyde R Copley	37
	Cora I Copley	33
	Cora B Copley	13
	Genevive L Copley	11
	Roy M Copley	9
	George E Copley	7
	Charles C Copley	4
	Martha J Copley	2 [2 9/12]
	Charlotte M Copley	0 [3/12]

Source Citation: Year: *1930*; Census Place: *Porter, Scioto, Ohio*; Roll: *1867*; Page: *23A*; Enumeration District: *15*; Image: *315.0*; FHL microfilm: *2341601*.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.
Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

Description:
The 1930 Census contains records for approximately 123 million Americans. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including:

birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census.

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BUTLER VAUGHN C	35238252	PVT	KIA
CANTER WARREN	15116266	S SG	FOD
CASTLE HOMER C	35652504	PVT	KIA
CLARKE CALVIN JR	35645482	AV C	DNB
COCKRELL HERBERT	35206476	PVT	DNB
COLER FRANK P	15110519	SGT	DOF
COOK ROY	15337089	S SG	KIA
COOPER JACK	35075978	PVT	KIA
COOPER SAMUEL	35659740	PFC	DOW
COPAS FARRELL W	35087623	PFC	KIA
COPLEY RAY M	35202103	SGT	KIA
CRABTREE JAMES T	35070158	PFC	KIA
COTERAL WOODROW W	35118808	PVT	DNB
CRISP RUSSELL E	15086532	T SG	KIA
CULP ADAM	35118803	PFC	KIA
CUNNINGHAM CHARLES H	35206474	TEC5	DNB
DAUB ROBERT F	35449119	SGT	DNB
DAVIS CHARLES H	6987417	S SG	DNB
DE LONG ELLIS	35842587	PFC	KIA
DEVER FORREST M	35260082	TEC4	DNB
DIENER AUSTIN P	0-697323	2 LT	DNB
DOAN EDWARD S	35649908	SGT	KIA
DOUGHERTY EDWARD D J	35650505	PFC	DNB
EDINGTON DENVER P	35116964	S SG	KIA
ENNERT CHARLES E	35656187	PVT	DNB
EVERETT JOHN R	0-818553	2 LT	DNB
FANNIN JONAS W	35202318	PFC	KIA
FELTY CONROY F	35834500	PVT	DNB
FIELDS WILLIAM R	35658321	PFC	KIA
FISHER RICHARD R	6988616	CPL	KIA
FLANNERY LUTHER O	35776802	PVT	DOW
FLANNIGAN JAMES H	35639224	PVT	KIA
FORD FRANCIS B	35434969	T SG	KIA
FRAZIER SYBOL L	15116084	PFC	DNB
FULTZ JOSEPH F JR	15362127	PVT	DOW
GALFORD WILLIAM C	35432620	PFC	DNB
GALFORT WILLIAM C	35935620	PFC	DNB
GALLIMORE WILLIE B	35769258	PVT	KIA
GALLOWAY CLAY	35644855	PVT	DNB
GAYHART CLAUDE W	35776015	PVT	KIA
GEARY WILLIAM H	0-808818	1 LT	KIA
GIBBS CHARLES D	35202527	S SG	FOD
GRAFTON CLAYTON W	20603610	S SG	KIA
GRAHAM JAMES R	35647356	PFC	KIA
GREEN WILLIAM E	35238196	PFC	KIA
GRUBB REED	35116423	PFC	KIA
HALE CHARLES L	35652731	CPL	DNB
HAZELBAKER CHARLES L	35651312	PVT	KIA
HEHL RALPH V	35650495	SGT	KIA
HICKMAN FORREST G	15339574	SGT	DNB
HILL ROBERT V	35644893	T SG	FOD
HILLIARD ALBERT W	15056001	SGT	KIA
HOLLBACK ROBERT H	35432170	S SG	KIA
HOWE WILLIAM N	15116852	PVT	DNB
HUFFMAN WILLIAM R	33897895	PVT	DOW
IRONS PAUL E	35413968	TEC5	KIA
IRWIN JAMES W	15058079	SGT	KIA
JUSTICE WILLIAM G	35434549	PFC	KIA
KAYSER FOREST E	35644785	SGT	KIA
KELSO HENRY T	35814804	CPL	KIA
KENNISON CECIL H	35429501	PVT	DNB
KILBY JAMES L	15112784	PFC	KIA
KNOST PHILIP A	36264507	PFC	KIA
LAYNE PAUL N	35446075	PVT	DNB
LEBRUN PAUL L	35440527	T SG	FOD
LEGRAND EVAN E	35641375	TEC5	DNB
LESLIE ISAAC D	35260111	SGT	FOD
LESLIE JOHN H	35658507	PFC	KIA
LESTER ERNEST F	35302309	PFC	KIA

1930 United States Federal Census COPLEY roy (ray)

Name
Roy M Copley
Age in 1930
9
Birth Year
abt 1921
Gender
Male
Race
White
Birthplace
Ohio
Marital Status
Single
Relation to Head of House
Son
Home in 1930
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Map of Home
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Street Address
Sciotoville and South Webster Pike Though Highland Bend
Dwelling Number
436
Family Number
438
Attended School
Yes
Father's Birthplace
Kentucky
Mother's Birthplace - Ohio
Household Members
Name
Age
Clyde R Copley - 37
Cora I Copley - 33
Cora B Copley - 13
Genevive L Copley - 11
Roy M Copley - 9
George E Copley - 7
Charles C Copley - 4
Martha J Copley - 2
Charlotte M Copley - 0

Transcript
Birth date: abt 1921 Birth place: Residence date: 1930 Residence place: Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Detail
Year: 1930; Census Place: Porter, Scioto, Ohio; Roll: 1867; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 15; Image: 315.0.
Web Address
search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&h=69644964&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt

Source Information
Title
1930 United States Federal Census
Author
Ancestry.com
Publisher
Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.Original data - United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626,

1930 United States Federal Census COPLEY Roy (rev)

Name
Roy M Copley
Age in 1930
9
Birth Year
abt 1921
Census
Male
Race
White
Birthplace
Ohio
Marital Status
Single
Relation to Head of House
Son
Home in 1930
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Value of Home
Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Street Address
Scioto Township, Scioto County, Ohio
Scioto and South Webster Pike Through Highland Rural
Dwelling Number
439
Family Number
439
Attended School
Yes
Can Read & Write
Kentucky
Native Tongue
Age
Clyde R Copley - 37
Cora I Copley - 33
Cora B Copley - 13
Genevive L Copley - 11
Roy M Copley - 9
George E Copley - 7
Charles C Copley - 4
Martha J Copley - 2
Charlotte M Copley - 0

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

Name:
Ray M Copley
Birth Date:
22 Aug 1929 → wrong yr.
Death Date:
25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:
Vernon Cemetery
Cemetery Location:
Wheelersburg, Ohio

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

Name:
Ray M Copley
Birth Date:
22 Aug 1929
Death Date:
25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:
Vernon Cemetery
Cemetery Location:
Wheelersburg, Ohio

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current COPLEY ray

Name:
Sgt Ray M Copley
Birth Date:
22 Aug 1927 (year? correct?)
Death Date:
25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:
Vernon Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:
Lyra, Scioto County, Ohio, USA
Has Bio?:
Y
URL:
http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-...

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current COPLEY ray

Name:
Sgt Ray M Copley
Birth Date:
22 Aug 1927
Death Date:
25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:
Vernon Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:
Lyra, Scioto County, Ohio, USA
Has Bio?:
Y
URL:
http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-...

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

Display Full Records

File Unit: Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938 - 1946 *(Enlistment Records)*
in the Series: World War II Army Enlistment Records, created 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002, documenting the period ca. 19
Record Group 64 (info)

Brief Scope: This series contains records of approximately nine million men and women who enlisted in th States Army, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

You may wish to View the FAQs for this series.

< Previous Record | N

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	35202103	35202103
NAME	COPLEY#RAY#M###########	COPLEY#RAY#M###########
RESIDENCE: STATE	53	OHIO
RESIDENCE: COUNTY	145	SCIOTO
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	5442	HUNTINGTON WEST VIRGINIA
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	04	04
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	03	03
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	41	41
GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION	PVT#	Private
GRADE: CODE	8	Private
BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION	BI#	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers,
BRANCH: CODE	00	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers,
FIELD USE AS DESIRED	#	#

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

AAD Home | Series List | Series Description | Previous Page | Next Page | Search Records | Full Display

AAD ITEM ID: 4 - FULL UNIT INFORMATION

Display Full Records

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	87262183	87262183
NAME	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
RESIDENCE: STATE	53	OHIO
RESIDENCE: COUNTY	165	SCIOTO
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	3442	HUNTINGTON WEST VIRGINIA
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	04	04
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	03	03
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	41	41
GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION	PVT4	PRIVATE
GRADE: CODE	8	PRIVATE
BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION	1CA	British Immigration - Warrant Officers
BRANCH: CODE	03	British Immigration - Warrant Officers
FIELD USE AS DESIRED	8	8

TERM OF ENLISTMENT	0	Undefined Code
LONGEVITY	###	###
SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL	0	Civil Life
NATIVITY	53	OHIO
YEAR OF BIRTH	19	19
RACE AND CITIZENSHIP	1	White, citizen
EDUCATION	1	1 year of high school
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	732	Undefined Code
MARITAL STATUS	6	Single, without dependents
COMPONENT OF THE ARMY	7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
CARD NUMBER	#	#
BOX NUMBER	0906	0906
FILM REEL NUMBER	3.328	3.328

< Previous Record | Ne

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8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
Telephone: 1-86-NARA-NARA or 1-866-272-6272

National Archives & Records Administration

War Department Files

SGT Ray M. Copley

ID: 35202103
Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Hometown: Scioto County, OH
Status: KIA

ROSS COUNTY (Cont'd)

WALLACE WILLIAM	O-000371	COL	DNB
WARD HENRY C	35137030	PFC	KIA
WELLBROOK CHARLES T	O-674655	2 LT	DNB
WHITE JAMES W	35628445	PFC	KIA
WHITTEN WALTER E	38411609	PFC	KIA
WOODWARD WILLIAM A	35240355	PVT	KIA

SANDUSKY COUNTY

ADKINS ERNEST	15339164	PFC	KIA
ARNBORST ALFRED H	01288674	CAPT	KIA
BAKER MYRON J	35325044	S SG	DNB
BARBER DALE C	35542428	PVT	DOW
BERRILL WILLIAM A	20504631	S SG	DOW
BIEHLER LEWIS	35845905	PVT	KIA
BIEHLER LESTER	35345634	PFC	KIA
BINIKER BUDDY D	35548233	SGT	KIA
BINSACK MAYNARD F	35538930	PFC	DNB
BROCKSIEKER DAVID H	35556923	PFC	DOW
BROWN WILLIAM C	35333922	TEC4	KIA
BURKETT LEROY E	15045435	TEC5	DNB
BYERS ONER S	35281662	1 SG	DOW
CLAYCOMB JOHN W	35287182	PVT	DOW
CLOSE JAMES C	35558714	PFC	DOW
COE RALPH K	35281654	SGT	KIA
COLLINS ROBERT J	35248522	PVT	KIA
CORWIN WILLARD R JR	35294094	PFC	DOW
COURTNEY JACK M	35849406	PVT	KIA
DENNIS WAYNE M	35227274	PFC	DOW
DICKMAN DONALD E	15374061	S SG	KIA
DICKMAN ROBERT A	35289681	SGT	KIA
DOROBEK HENRY R	01061369	2 LT	KIA
DUMMITT LESTER L	20504605	S SG	KIA
DUNIGAN LOUIS P	35348065	PFC	KIA
ERNSBERGER KENNETH C	35040743	PFC	KIA
EVANS CHARLES C	15103045	T SG	KIA
FAIST JOHN K	01003231	1 LT	DNB
FISHER ROLAND B	20504603	SGT	DOW
FORK CLYDE E	35280032	TEC5	DOW
GAHN RICHARD R	01297867	1 LT	KIA
GALL THOMAS A	O-530849	1 LT	DNB
GISH PAUL B	35342364	PFC	DOW
GORDON JOHN M	15102168	PVT	FOD
GORMAN ARTHUR F	O-021249	LT C	KIA
HALBEISEN HALDON L	35018734	TEC5	KIA
HUBBARD ROBERT M	01794946	1 LT	KIA
HUDSON GERALD E	35017330	S SG	KIA
HUFFORD JACK E	35555079	TEC5	DNB
JONES MILTON C	35353590	PFC	KIA
KING HERBERT M	35328887	PVT	KIA
KOTCH WALTER J	35342384	S SG	KIA
LAHR RICHARD C	35243183	PFC	KIA
LAWRENCE HALDON E	35553743	TEC5	FOD
LEKING ROGER T	35348050	SGT	KIA
LEWIS ROBERT L	15328397	S SG	KIA
LONG HAROLD W	35289287	SGT	KIA
LYON CHARLES R	15354744	S SG	KIA
MAIKE HAROLD A	6568988	SGT	DNB
MC GRADY ROBERT J	35297440	PVT	DOW
MC GUIRE JOHN C	35537545	PFC	DNB
MICHAELS PAUL H	15018496	PVT	KIA
MORRIS CHESTER A	35019918	TEC4	KIA
MOYER DONALD C	35550810	T SG	DNB
PIERCE LAUREL D	35017208	S SG	KIA
HAFFERTY WILLIAM T	01293832	1 LT	KIA
HAINS LELAND G	35542353	TEC5	KIA
HECKTENWALD FRANCIS	35341386	PFC	DNB
HEDFOX FRANKLIN H	35281647	PFC	KIA
HEINECK EUGENE W	35333617	SGT	FOD
HEITER CLAYTON C	35553778	S SG	KIA
HIFFLE EARL C	20504621	PVT	KIA
HOBITSKI CHESTER R T	35538931	SGT	DNB
HUSCH DONALD E	35541540	CPL	DNB
SACKRIDER ARTHUR L	35326743	PFC	KIA
SANER ROBERT A	O-432211	2 LT	DNB
SCHLEA MERLE E	35537548	PFC	DNB
SHREFFLER WALTER C	35556921	SGT	KIA
SILVANI LENO J	35551548	PFC	KIA
SIRMANS CHANDLER	35297424	PVT	KIA
SMITH LYNNFORD L	15329397	S SG	KIA
SMITH VINCENT J	35015971	T SG	KIA
SMITH WILSON C	20505030	PVT	DOW
SNIDER LESLIE A	35504498	CPL	KIA
SPITZER CLETUS V	35537542	PVT	DNB
SWARTZ EUGENE E	35558534	PFC	KIA
TOEPPE LAWRENCE J	15329499	S SG	KIA
TOPEL RICHARD L	20504676	PVT	KIA
TUCKERMAN JOHN D	35289239	PFC	KIA
VANALST REX W	O-766792	2 LT	DNB
VARGO JOHN J	15329372	S SG	FOD
VICKERY JOHN H	35286759	PFC	KIA
WALTERS ARTHUR M	35019291	TEC5	DOW
WANNES BERNARD C	15354751	TEC4	KIA
WEAVER JOHN C	35295885	PVT	KIA
WELSH JOHN F	01109742	1 LT	KIA
WHISLER DONALD L	15354671	S SG	DNB
WHITE MILLARD M	01285865	1 LT	DNB
WIRKKALA LESTER R	35283871	PFC	KIA
YOUNG RODGER W	20504613	PVT	KIA
ZIRN RICHARD H	35289235	TEC5	KIA

SCIOTO COUNTY

ADAMS CHESTER	O-685919	2 LT	FOD
ADAMS ERNEST W	33733432	PFC	DOW
ADAMS PAUL E	35648069	CPL	KIA
ADKINS EARL JR	35767371	PVT	KIA
ALLEN HUGH M J	01018665	2 LT	FOD
ALLEY THOMAS J	35779713	PFC	KIA
ANGELL JOHN H	35212904	S SG	KIA
ARTHURS STARLING H	35260125	TEC5	DNB
BAILEY GEORGE W	35116389	PFC	DNB
BAILEY JAMES E	O-821931	2 LT	KIA
BALDRIDGE HARRY L	6989020	PVT	KIA
BENDER ALBERT W	35136325	S SG	KIA
BENNER SIMON J	35567084	PVT	DNB
BENNINGTON FRANK	35640295	PVT	KIA
BENTLEY TEDDY E	35767345	PVT	KIA
BOLTON ROBERT H	15407409	SGT	DNB
BRADLEY ARZANAS	35268448	PVT	KIA
BRADY ARDEN V	35643896	CPL	KIA
BRAMBLETT PAUL D	15321813	PVT	KIA
BRAME HENRY D	35083395	S SG	KIA
BREECH LESTER E	35075972	PVT	KIA
BROFFORD WESLEY W	35845264	PVT	DOW
BRUMFIELD JOHN W	35652569	PVT	KIA
BURCHETT CURTISS	35636155	PFC	KIA
BUSH HAROLD E	02010609	2 LT	KIA
BUTLER VAUGHN C	35238252	PVT	KI
CAMTER WARREN	15116266	S SG	FO
CASTLE HOMER C	35652504	PVT	KI
CLARKE CALVIN JR	35645482	AV C	DN
COCKRELL HERBERT	35206476	PVT	DN
COLER FRANK P	15110519	SGT	DO
COOK ROY	15337089	S SG	KI
COOPER JACK	35075978	PVT	KI
COOPER SAMUEL	35659740	PFC	DO
COPAS FARRELL W	35087623	PFC	KI
COPLEY RAY M	35302103	SGT	KI
CRABTREE JAMES T	35070158	PFC	KI
COTERAL WOODROW W	35118808	PVT	DN
CRISP RUSSELL E	15086532	T SG	KI
CULP ADAM	35118803	PFC	KI
CUNNINGHAM CHARLES H	35206474	TEC5	DN
DAUB ROBERT F	35449119	SGT	DN
DAVIS CHARLES H	6987417	S SG	DN
DE LONG ELLIS	35842587	PFC	KI
DEVER FORREST H	35260082	TEC4	DN
DIENER AUSTIN P	O-697323	2 LT	DN
DOAN EDWARD S	35649908	SGT	KI
DOUGHERTY EDWARD D J	35650505	PFC	DN
EDINGTON DENVER P	35116964	S SG	KI
EMMERT CHARLES E	35656187	PVT	DN
EVERETT JOHN R	O-818553	2 LT	DN
FANNIN JONAS W	35202318	PFC	KI
FELTY CONROY F	35834500	PVT	DN
FIELDS WILLIAM R	35658321	PFC	KI
FISHER RICHARD R	6988616	CPL	KI
FLANNERY LUTHER O	35776802	PVT	DO
FLANNIGAN JAMES H	35639224	PVT	KI
FORD FRANCIS B	35434969	T SG	KI
FRAZIER SYBOL L	15116084	PFC	DN
FULTZ JOSEPH F JR	15362127	PVT	DO
GALFORD WILLIAM C	35432620	PFC	DN
GALFORT WILLIAM C	35955620	PFC	DN
GALLIMORE WILLIE B	35769258	PVT	KI
GALLOWAY CLAY	35644855	PVT	DN
GAYHART CLAUDE W	35776015	PVT	KI
GEARY WILLIAM N	O-808818	1 LT	KI
GIBBS CHARLES D	35202527	S SG	FO
GRAFTON CLAYTON W	20803610	S SG	KI
GRAHAM JAMES R	35647356	PFC	KI
GREEN WILLIAM E	35238196	PFC	KI
GRUBB REED	35116423	PFC	KI
HALE CHARLES L	35652731	CPL	DN
HAZELBAKER CHARLES L	35651312	PVT	KI
HEHL RALPH V	35650495	SGT	KI
HICKMAN FORREST C	15339574	SGT	DN
HILL ROBERT V	35644893	T SG	FO
HILLIARD ALBERT W	15056001	SGT	KI
HOLLBACK ROBERT H	35432170	S SG	KI
HOWE WILLIAM N	15116852	PVT	DN
HUFFMAN WILLIAM R	33897895	PVT	DO
IRONS PAUL E	35413968	TEC5	KI
IRWIN JAMES W	15058079	SGT	KI
JUSTICE WILLIAM C	35424549	PFC	KI
KAYSER FOREST E	35644785	SGT	KI
KELSO HENRY T	35214804	CPL	KI
KENNISON CECIL H	35429501	PVT	DA
KILBY JAMES L	15113784	PFC	KI
KNOAT PHILIP A	35264507	PFC	KI
LAYNE PAUL N	35446075	PVT	DA
LEBRUN PAUL L	35440527	T SG	FO
LECHAND EVAN E	35641375	TEC5	DA
LESLIE ISAAC D	35260111	SGT	FO
LESLIE JOHN H	35658507	PFC	KI
LESTER ERNEST F	35202309	PFC	KI

3 141

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

WWII Army and Army Air Force Casualties

See Related Resource:
World War II Casualties for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard

From:

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
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Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
Territories of the United States

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U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

Name:	**Ray M Copley**
Birth Date:	22 Aug 1929
Death Date:	25 Jul 1943
Cemetery:	Vernon Cemetery
Cemetery Location:	Wheelersburg, Ohio

Source Citation: National Archives and Records Administration; Washington, D.C.; *Applications for Headstones for U.S. military veterans, 1925-1941*; National Archives Microfilm Publication: *A1, 2110-C*; Record Group Title: *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General*; Record Group Number: *92*.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.
Original data:

Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941. Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: . Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Applications for Headstones, compiled 01/01/1925 - 06/30/1970, documenting the period ca. 1776 - 1970 ARC: . Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774–1985, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Description:
These headstone applications can tell you a lot more than just name, rank, and serial number.

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Source Citation: Year: *1940*; Census Place: *Porter, Scioto, Ohio*; Roll: *T627_3142*; Page: *28B*; Enumeration District: *73-18*.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *1940 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.
Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

Description:
The 1940 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1940, with details about a household's occupants that include birthplaces, occupations, education, citizenship, and income.

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1940 United States Federal Census

Name:	**Ray Copley**
Age:	20
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1920
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birthplace:	Ohio
Marital Status:	Single
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Home in 1940:	Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Map of Home in 1940:	
Street:	Bussey Road
Inferred Residence in 1935:	Porter, Scioto, Ohio
Residence in 1935:	Same Place
Sheet Number:	28B
Attended School or College:	No
Highest Grade Completed:	High School, 1st year
Weeks Worked in 1939:	24
Income:	300
Income Other Sources:	0
Neighbors:	

Household Members:

Name	Age
Clyde Copley	40
Cora Copley	42
Ray Copley	20
George Copley	17
Charles Copley	14
Martha Copley	12
Charlotte Copley	10
Joyce Copley	8
Clarence Copley	5

Name:	Ray M Copley
Birth Year:	1919
Race:	White, citizen (White)
Nativity State or Country:	Ohio
State of Residence:	Ohio
County or City:	Scioto
Enlistment Date:	4 Mar 1941
Enlistment State:	West Virginia
Enlistment City:	Huntington
Branch:	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Branch Code:	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Grade:	Private
Grade Code:	Private
Component:	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Source:	Civil Life
Education:	1 year of high school
Civil Occupation:	Semiskilled construction occupations, n.e.c.
Marital status:	Single, without dependents
Height:	68
Weight:	132

U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

View Record

Name
Ray M Copley
Birth Year
1919
Race
White, citizen
Nativity State or Country
Ohio
State of Residence
Ohio
County or City
Scioto
Enlistment Date
4 Mar 1941
Enlistment State
West Virginia
Enlistment City
Huntington
Branch
Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Branch Code
Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Grade
Private
Grade Code
Private
Component
Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Source
Civil Life

Education
1 year of high school
Civil Occupation
Semiskilled construction occupations, n.e.c.
Marital Status
Single, without dependents
Height
68
Weight
132

Title
U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946
Author
Ancestry.com
Publisher
Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.
Publisher Date
2005
Publisher Location
Provo, UT, USA
Edit Repository

Repository Information

Name
Ancestry.com
Address
http://www.Ancestry.com

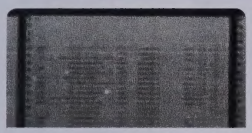
04 Mar 1941 • Huntington, Cabell, West Virginia, USA
Ray enlisted in the army as a Private in the Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers

ancestry

Ray M Copley

in the U.S. Rosters of World War II Dead, 1939-1945

Saved to: COPLEY, Ray M. in tree "Brown, Watkins - Copley, Martin" Remove
COPLEY, Ray Martin in tree "Brown - Copley Tree" Remove



View

Add alternate information

Report issue

Name:	Ray M Copley
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Religion:	Protestant
Cemetery Name:	Ohio
Disposition:	According to next of kin
Service Branch:	Army
Rank:	Sergeant
Service Number:	35202103

Save Cancel

Write a comment.

Make a Connection

Find others who are researching Ray M Copley in Public Member Trees

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *U.S. Rosters of World War II Dead, 1939-1945* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

Original data: United States. Army. Quartermaster General's Office. *Rosters of World War II Dead (all services)*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army.

Description

This database contains the names of those who died in World War II from all U.S. armed services. Information available includes: name of deceased, rank, religion, race, and name of interment site. Learn more...

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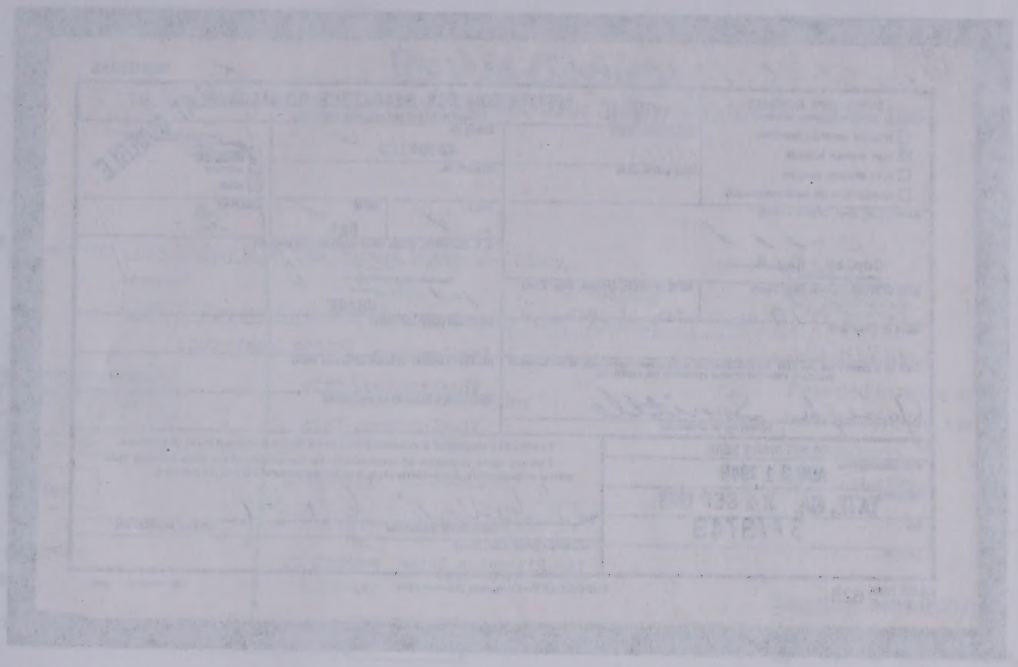
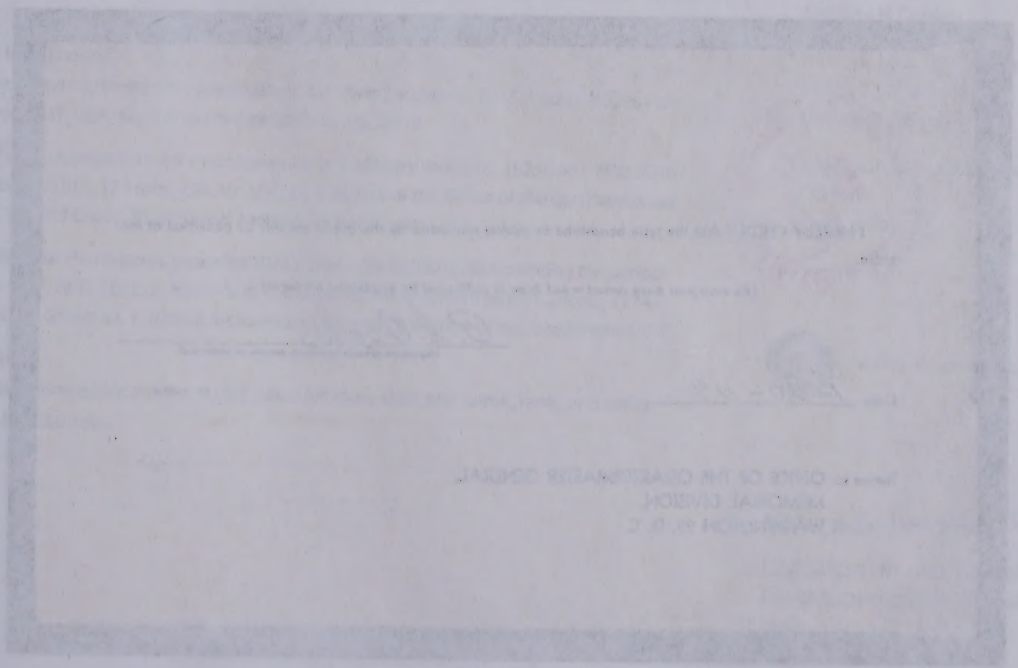




Ray Copley Headstone application

Un also Dvt 293 fld D

ORIGINAL

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See Instructions attached)

- ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE
- ☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER
- ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER
- ☐ BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)

WW II

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER

(Please make out and return in duplicate)

FLAT MARBLE

ENLISTMENT DATE	SERIAL No.	EMBLEM (Check one)
3/4/41	35202103	☒ CHRISTIAN ☐ HEBREW ☐ NONE
DISCHARGE DATE	**PENSION No.**	

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	STATE	RANK	COMPANY
Copley, Ray M	Ohio	Sgt	2.

U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION: 26 Cav Rcn 1st Div. USAGF

DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year)
Aug 22 1921	July 25 1943

NAME OF CEMETERY: Vernon Cemetery

LOCATION (City and State): Wheelersburg, Scioto County Ohio

SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY)

Joseph Smittle
(SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)

NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State): Wheelersburg, Ohio

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: Wheelersburg, Ohio

DO NOT WRITE HERE

FOR VERIFICATION: AUG 21 1948

ORDERED: TATE, GA. 24 SEP 1948

B/L: 3779749

SHIPPED

I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran.

I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.

× Clyde R. Copley
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE — DATE OF APPLICATION

ADDRESS (Street, City, State): 152 Riverside Drive Newark, O.

OQMG FORM 623 REV 15 APR 47

IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side

16—11453-6 GPO

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the type headstone or marker requested by the applicant will be permitted at the grave.

(*Be sure you have noted what type is indicated by applicant on form*)

O. L. Copley
(Signature of superintendent, sexton, or caretaker)

Date 1-20-49

16—11458-4

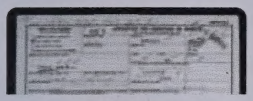
Return to: OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL,
MEMORIAL DIVISION,
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ancestry

Ray M Copley

in the U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

✔ Saved to: COPLEY, Ray M. in tree "Brown, Watkins - Copley, Martin" Remove
COPLEY, Ray Martin in tree "Brown - Copley Tree" Remove



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Death Date:	25 Jul 1943
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Description

This database contains information on about 8.3 million men and women who enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. Information contained in this database usually includes: name of enlistee, army serial number, residence (county and state), enlistment date and place (city and state), education, civil occupation, marital status, height and weight. Learn more...

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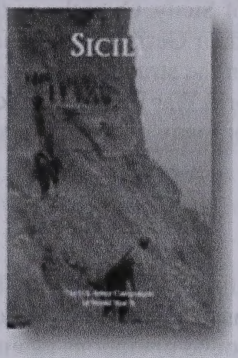

Introduction

World War II was the largest and most violent armed conflict in the history of mankind. However, the half century that now separates us from that conflict has exacted its toll on our collective knowledge. While World War II continues to absorb the interest of military scholars and historians, as well as its veterans, a generation of Americans has grown to maturity largely unaware of the political, social, and military implications of a war that, more than any other, united us as a people with a common purpose.

Highly relevant today, World War II has much to teach us, not only about the profession of arms, but also about military preparedness, global strategy, and combined operations in the coalition war against fascism. During the next several years, the U.S. Army will participate in the nation's 50th anniversary commemoration of World War II. The commemoration will include the publication of various materials to help educate Americans about that war. The works produced will provide great opportunities to learn about and renew pride in an Army that fought so magnificently in what has been called "the mighty endeavor."

World War II was waged on land, on sea, and in the air over several diverse theaters of operation for approximately six years. The following essay is one of a series of campaign studies highlighting those struggles that, with their accompanying suggestions for further reading, are designed to introduce you to one of the Army's significant military feats from that war.

This brochure was prepared in the U.S. Army Center of Military History by Andrew J. Birtle. I hope this absorbing account of that period will enhance your appreciation of American achievements during World War II.

GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, United States Army

Chief of Staff

Sicily

9 July-17 August 1943

On the night of 9-10 July 1943, an Allied armada of 2,590 vessels launched one of the largest combined operations of World War II— the invasion of Sicily. Over the next thirty-eight days, half a million Allied soldiers, sailors, and airmen grappled with their German and Italian counterparts for control of this rocky outwork of Hitler's "Fortress Europe." When the struggle was over, Sicily became the first piece of the Axis homeland to fall to Allied forces during World War II. More important, it served as both a base for the invasion of Italy and as a training ground for many of the officers and enlisted men who eleven months later landed on the beaches of Normandy.

Strategic Setting

In January 1943, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill met with their senior military advisers at Casablanca, Morocco, to devise a military strategy for the coming year. The United States Army had begun ground operations against the European Axis Powers only two months before as part of a joint Anglo-American invasion of North Africa. With the North African campaign moving toward a successful conclusion, the leaders of the two nations debated where to launch their next blow. After several days of negotiations, they agreed to make Sicily their next target.

Situated ninety miles off the north coast of Africa and a mere two and one-half miles from the "toe" of the Italian peninsula, Sicily was both a natural bridge between Africa and Europe and a barrier dividing the Mediterranean Sea. Its rugged topography made it a tough, unsinkable bastion from which Axis air and naval forces could interdict Allied sea lanes through the Mediterranean. Yet despite its strategic location, the Allies were deeply divided over the merits of invading the island, and in the end the decision to invade Sicily represented an uneasy compromise between British and American strategists.

The British strongly supported the invasion because Britain had long-standing political and strategic interests in the Mediterranean. They argued that Sicily's conquest would not only reopen

Allied sea lanes to the eastern Mediterranean, but also give the Allies a base from which to launch further offensives in the region. Moreover, the occupation of Italian national territory might shock the war-weary Italians into dropping out of the war altogether.

American strategists, led by Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall, argued that the Allies should focus their energies upon a direct thrust at Nazi Germany and not waste their time nibbling at peripheral Axis outposts like Sicily. Marshall wanted to launch a cross-Channel attack into northern France as soon as possible, and every man, tank, and ship sent to the Mediterranean reduced the forces available for an invasion of northern Europe.

At Casablanca, Winston Churchill, rather than George Marshall, had his way. Roosevelt and Churchill wanted to do something further to divert Germany's attention from the war against Russia. The two Allied leaders also were anxious to exploit the momentum of their impending victory in North Africa, and the mass of men and materiel that would be available in the Mediterranean at the conclusion of the North African campaign made additional operations in that theater attractive. After studying a variety of options, including operations in Greece, the Balkans, Crete, and Sardinia, the Casablanca conferees chose Sicily as the most

appropriate sequel to the Tunisia Campaign. In return for undertaking the operation, the British reaffirmed the ultimate goal of a cross-Channel attack, and several months later the two powers fixed May 1944 for that event. Beyond this, there was no agreed upon plan.

The Americans wanted Sicily to be the last of the Allies' Mediterranean adventures, while the British continued to regard it as only the first step in what they hoped would be an all-out attack on the "soft underbelly" of Hitler's Europe. Thus the decision to invade Sicily represented an uneasy compromise between coalition partners, a compromise that left the commanders in the field with an imperfect understanding of the ultimate purpose of the operation. This lack of clarity would ultimately have an adverse impact upon the resolution of the campaign.

While London and Washington haggled over the ultimate course of Allied strategy, preparations began for the immediate task at hand. The Combined Chiefs of Staff chose General Dwight D. Eisenhower as supreme Allied commander for the Sicilian operation, with three Britons as his land, air, and sea component commanders. General Sir Harold Alexander was Eisenhower's principal deputy and the actual commander of Allied land forces.

A Sherman tank moves past Sicily's rugged terrain. (National Archives)

Alexander's 15th Army Group directed the U.S. Seventh Army, under the command of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., and General Sir Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army.

Preparations for Operation HUSKY, the code name for the invasion of Sicily, began immediately after the Casablanca Conference. With the invasion scheduled for 10 July, there was little time to lose. In drawing up the invasion plans, three factors dominated Allied thinking—the island's topography, the location of Axis air bases, and the amount of resistance that could be expected.

Slightly larger than the state of Vermont, Sicily's 10,000 square miles of rough, highly defensible terrain is cut in a roughly triangular shape. Beginning with low hills in the south and west, the land becomes more mountainous to the north and east, ultimately culminating in the island's most prominent feature, the 10,000foot-high volcano Mount Etna. The port of Messina in the island's northeastern corner is the primary transit point between Sicily and the Italian mainland. It was the key strategic objective for the campaign, for without Messina, Axis forces would be cut off from supply and reinforcement. Unfortunately, the country around Messina was extremely rugged and the beaches narrow. Moreover, the city was heavily fortified and beyond the range at which the Allies'

Africa-based fighters could provide effective air cover. Consequently, Allied planners ruled it out as an initial objective.

The widest and most accessible beaches for amphibious operations lie along the island's southeastern and western shores. By happy coincidence, Sicily's other major ports—Palermo, Catania, Augusta, and Syracuse —are also clustered in the northwestern and southeastern corners of the island, as were the majority of the island's thirty major airfields. Both the ports and the airfields were major considerations in the minds of the invasion planners. The Army needed the ports for logistical reasons, while the air and naval commanders wanted the airfields captured as early as possible to help protect the invasion fleet from aerial attack.

The confluence of favorable beaches, ports, and airfields in the northwestern and southeastern corners of the island initially led Allied planners to propose landings in both areas. They ultimately rejected this idea,

however, because the two landing forces would be unable to provide mutual support. General Montgomery was particularly adamant about the need to concentrate Allied forces to meet what he anticipated would be fierce Axis resistance. German troops had fought tenaciously in Tunisia, and Montgomery feared that Italian soldiers would resist with equal stubbornness now that they would be fighting on home soil. Eisenhower accepted Montgomery's argument and chose the more cautious approach of concentrating Allied forces at only one location, Sicily's southeastern shore.

The final plan called for over seven divisions to wade ashore along a 100-mile front in southeastern Sicily, while elements of two airborne divisions landed behind Axis lines. The British Eighth Army would land four divisions, an independent brigade, and a commando force along a forty-mile front stretching from the Pachino Peninsula north along the Gulf of Noto to a point just south of the port of Syracuse. A glider landing would assist the amphibious troops in capturing Syracuse. To the west, Patton's Seventh Army would land three divisions over an even wider front in the Gulf of Gela. The assault would be supported by parachutists from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team and the 3d Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry.

Once ashore, the Eighth Army would thrust northward, capturing in succession Augusta, Catania, and the airfield complex at Gerbini before making the final push on Messina. The Seventh Army's initial objectives were several airfields between Licata and

Comiso, after which it would advance to a position approximately twenty miles inland designated the Yellow Line. From the Yellow Line the Seventh Army would control the high ground that ringed the American beaches and protect the western flank of the Eighth Army's beachhead. Once this had been secured, the Seventh Army was to push slightly forward to a second position, termed the Blue Line, from which it would control the road network that emanated from Piazza Armerina.

Of the two armies, it was the veteran Eighth to whom Alexander assigned the primary burden of the campaign. The less experienced Seventh was relegated to a secondary role of supporting the British and protecting their flank as they moved up the east coast toward Messina. The unequal allocation of responsibility clearly reflected British skepticism about American capabilities, a skepticism born of the debacle at Kasserine Pass a few months before. Moreover, it made more sense to have only one army advance on Messina than to attempt to coordinate the movements of two such entities upon the same goal, especially given the rather narrow and constrictive terrain of northeastern Sicily. The problem was that Alexander never drew up any detailed plans for the land campaign beyond the initial landings, preferring instead to make those decisions once the troops were firmly ashore and the operation was under way. By failing to assign the Seventh Army any clear objectives beyond the Blue Line, Alexander opened the door for disagreement and contention between his two army commanders once the campaign had begun.

General Patton organized his invasion force as follows. On the right, Maj. Gen. Troy Middleton's 45th Infantry Division, newly arrived from the United States, would land near Scoglitti and move inland to Comiso and Ragusa where it would link up with the Eighth Army's left flank. In the center, Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen's veteran 1st Infantry Division, reinforced by two battalions of Rangers under the command of Lt. Col. William O. Darby, was to secure Gela and its neighboring airfields before pushing north to Niscemi. Paratroopers from the 82d Airborne Division's 505th and 504th Parachute Regiments under the command of Col. James M. Gavin would assist Allen by seizing the high ground north of the 1st Division's beachheads and blocking the road south from Niscemi and the vital road junction at Piano Lupo. On the left, Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott's 3d Division, reinforced by a Ranger battalion and Combat Command A of the 2d Armored Division, was to land at Licata and

protect the left flank of the American beachhead. Once these objectives had been achieved, the 1st and 45th Divisions would drive north to Highway 124, the main east-west corridor in the southeastern portion of the island and the boundary of the Yellow Line.

Patton grouped the 45th and 1st Divisions (minus one regiment) together under Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley's II Corps while keeping Truscott's 3d Division under his personal supervision. In reserve were the balance of the 2d Armored and 82d Airborne Divisions, the 9th Infantry Division, a regiment from the 1st Infantry Division, and a battalion of French Moroccans. With the exception of Gavin's paratroopers, who were to precede the waterborne assault force by a few hours, all of the amphibious landings were to occur simultaneously at 0245, 10 July 1943.

Although Allied planners opted to concentrate their ground forces in the anticipation of tough Axis resistance, the actual combat capability of Axis troops deployed in Sicily was questionable. Axis forces consisted of between 200,000 and 300,000 Italian and about 30,000 German troops under the overall command of General Alfredo Guzzoni's *Italian VI Army*. The Italians were organized into six coastal divisions, four infantry divisions, and a variety of local defense forces. Many of these units were woefully deficient in equipment, training, and morale and would prove incapable of putting up serious resistance. In fact, many Italian soldiers were tired of Mussolini's disastrous war and would surrender at the first opportunity. The German troops were divided into two divisions, the *15th Panzer Grenadier* and the *Hermann Goering Panzer*. They formed the hard core of Sicily's defenses. The *15th Panzer Grenadier Division* was essentially combat ready, but the *Hermann Goering Division* was significantly understrength and contained some inexperienced personnel.

Axis strategists recognized that they did not have sufficient strength to hold Sicily should the Allies gain a firm foothold on the island. Their only hope of success lay in crushing the Allies on the shore before they had time to consolidate their beachhead. This was easier said than done, however, for most Axis units on the island lacked the mobility to launch a quick counterstrike. The Axis command was therefore forced to station its reserves as close as possible to the most likely landing places.

General Guzzoni attempted to do just that. After spreading his coastal units in a thin line around the island's perimeter, he placed two Italian infantry divisions in each of the two most likely invasion

sites, the island's western and southeastern corners. He considered the southeast to be the more probable landing site, however, and for this reason he wanted to concentrate both German divisions there. Fortunately for the Allies, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, Hitler's representative in Italy, thwarted Guzzoni's plan by transferring the bulk of the *15th Panzer Grenadier Division* to western Sicily shortly before the invasion. Kesselring believed that the only way the Axis could repel the Allies was by having German forces ready to launch a quick counteroffensive at each of the potential landing sites. Since the Axis could not rule out the possibility of a western landing, Kesselring insisted on moving a significant portion of the *15th* to cover that potentiality. Consequently, of the two German units, only the *Hermann Goering Division* was positioned to launch a counterattack against the Seventh Army's beachheads during the initial hours of the invasion.

Operations

The invasion got off to a rough start during the night of 9-10 July 1943. As the Allied armada steamed toward the island a fierce, forty-mile-per-hour gale, dubbed the "Mussolini wind" by seasick G.I.s, whipped up the seas, seriously endangering some of the smaller craft. The situation in the air was even worse. Buffeted by the winds and confused by an overly complex flight plan, the inexperienced pilots ferrying Allied airborne forces became disoriented in the darkness and strayed from their courses. Of the 144 gliders bearing British

paratroops to landing zones outside of Syracuse, only 12 landed on target, while 69 crashed into the sea and the rest dispersed over a wide area. In the American sector, Colonel Gavin's 3,400 paratroopers were even more widely scattered. Gavin himself landed twenty-five miles southeast of his intended drop zone. The wide dispersion of paratroopers seriously jeopardized Seventh Army's invasion plan by weakening the buffer these men were supposed to form in front of the 1st Division's beachhead. Nevertheless, the men of the 82d Airborne went right to work wherever chance landed them. Operating in small, isolated groups, the paratroopers created considerable confusion in Axis rear areas, attacking patrols and cutting communication lines.

The airborne forces had begun landing about 2330 on 9 July, and by midnight General Guzzoni was fully apprised of their presence. He was not surprised. Axis air reconnaissance had spotted Allied

Troops and supplies unloading near Gela on D-day. (National Archives)

convoys moving toward Sicily earlier that day, and Guzzoni had ordered a full alert at 2200 on the 9th. Based upon the reported airborne drops, Guzzoni correctly surmised that the Allies intended to come ashore in the southeast, and he issued orders to that effect at 0145 on 10 July, nearly an hour before the first assault wave hit the beach. Nevertheless, the dispirited and ill-equipped Italian coastal units hardly put up a fight. Opposition in the Eighth Army's sector was negligible. By the end of the first day the British were firmly ashore and well on their way toward Augusta, having walked into Syracuse virtually unopposed. Resistance was not much stronger in the American zone, and the Seventh Army had little trouble moving ashore despite sporadic air and artillery attacks.

The only serious fighting occurred in the American center, where Axis mobile forces tried to throw the Americans back into the sea before they had a chance to become firmly established. Fortunately for the Americans, the attacks were poorly coordinated. At Gela, the 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions, assisted by the 1st Battalion of the 39th Engineer Combat Regiment, the 1st Bat-

talion of the 531st Engineer Shore Regiment, mortar fire from the 83d Chemical Battalion, and naval gunfire, repulsed two Italian attacks, one by a battalion of infantry and the other by a column of thirteen tanks. Nine or ten of the latter managed to penetrate the town before the Rangers drove them off in a confused melee. Meanwhile, at the vital Piano Lupo crossroads, those few paratroopers who had been fortunate enough to land near their objective repulsed a column of about twenty Italian tanks with the help of naval gunfire and the advancing infantrymen of the 16th Regimental Combat Team. Shortly thereafter they rebuffed a more serious attack made by ninety German Mark III and IV medium tanks, two armored artillery battalions, an armored reconnaissance battalion, and an engineer battalion from the *Hermann Goering Division*. Naval gunfire played a crucial role in stopping this German thrust. The worst event of the day occurred when seventeen German Tiger I heavy tanks, an armored artillery battalion, and two battalions of motorized infantry from the *Hermann Goering Division* overran the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry (45th Division), after a stiff fight, capturing its commander and many of its men.

While Rangers, paratroopers, and infantrymen repelled Axis counterattacks, an even more serious struggle was being waged against mother nature. Although 10 July dawned bright and sunny, the rough seas of the previous night had disorganized several units. The worst case was that of the 45th Division's 180th Regiment, which had been scattered over a ten-mile front. Nor did the beaches prove to be as favorable as anticipated. Soft sand, shifting sandbars, and difficult exits created congestion on the beaches that was further aggravated by enemy air and artillery barrages. By midmorning, between 150 and 200 landing craft were stranded on the

shoreline. Nevertheless, American service troops performed herculean feats to keep the men in the front lines supplied and supported. During the first three days the U.S. Army and Navy moved 66,285 personnel, 17,766 deadweight tons of cargo, and 7,396 vehicles over Sicily's southern shores. An entirely new generation of landing craft and ships—LSTs, LCTs, LCIs, and LCVPs—greatly facilitated the logistical effort. Even more remarkable was the innovative DUKW amphibious truck that could move directly from offshore supply ships to inland depots.

By the end of the first day, the Seventh Army had established a beachhead two to four miles deep and fifty miles wide. In the process it had captured over 4,000 prisoners at the cost of 58 killed, 199

wounded, and 700 missing. But the situation was still perilous. Axis counterattacks had created a dangerous bulge in the center of the American line, the very point where the bulk of the 505th Parachute Regiment should have been if its drop had been accurate.

July 11, the second day of the invasion, was the Seventh Army's most perilous day in Sicily. Early that morning, General Guzzoni renewed his attack against the shallow center of the American line—Piano Lupo, Gela, and the beaches beyond. Guzzoni committed the better part of two divisions in the attack, the *Hermann Goering Division* and the *Italian Livorno Division*. He backed them up with heavy air attacks by Italian and German planes based in Italy. Congestion on the beaches hampered Bradley's efforts to send tanks forward, so that the defending infantrymen had nothing but artillery and naval gunfire to support them. Cooks, clerks, and Navy shore personnel were pressed into service to help the 1st and 45th Division infantrymen, Rangers, and paratroopers repel the Axis attacks. The fighting was fierce. A few German tanks broke into Gela, while two *panzer* battalions closed to within two thousand yards of the vulnerable beaches before being repulsed by ground and naval gunfire. Several miles southeast of Gela, Colonel Gavin and an impromptu assembly of paratroopers and 45th Division soldiers effectively thwarted another German column consisting of 700 infantry, a battalion of self-propelled artillery, and a company of Tiger tanks at Biazzo Ridge. By day's end, the Seventh Army had suffered over 2,300 casualties, the Army's greatest oneday loss during the campaign. But as darkness descended, the Americans still held, and in some areas had actually expanded, their narrow foothold on the island.

After a day of heavy fighting, Patton decided to reinforce his battle-weary center with over 2,000 additional paratroopers from his reserves in North Africa. He ordered that the 1st and 2d Battalions, 504th Paratroop Regiment, the 376th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, and a company from the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion be dropped near Gela on the night of 11 July. German aircraft had been active over the American sector all day, and consequently senior Army and Navy officers went to great lengths to inform everyone of the impending nighttime paratroop drop lest overanxious gunners fire on the friendly aircraft. Nevertheless, when the transport planes arrived over the beaches in the wake of a German air raid, nervous antiaircraft gunners ashore and afloat opened fire with devastating effect. Allied antiaircraft guns shot down 23 and dam

aged 37 of the 144 American transport planes. The paratroop force suffered approximately 10 percent casualties and was badly disorganized. Later investigation would reveal that not everyone had been informed of the drop despite the Seventh Army's best efforts.

Over the next two days the Seventh Army gradually pushed its way out of the coastal plain and into the hills ringing the American beachhead. Fighting between the 1st Division and the *Hermann Goering Division* was

occasionally stiff, but General Allen moved his men relentlessly forward through Niscemi and on toward the Yellow Line. On the right, Middleton's 45th Division likewise made good progress toward Highway 124, while to the left Truscott's 3d Division infantrymen, supported by 2d Armored Division tanks, moved beyond their initial Yellow Line objectives. The British matched American progress, and by the 13th they had advanced as far as Vizzini in the west and Augusta in the east. Resistance in the British zone was stiffening, however, due to difficult terrain and the arrival from France of elements of Germany's elite *1st Parachute Division*. As the Eighth Army's drive toward Catania and Gerbini bogged down in heavy fighting, Montgomery persuaded Alexander to shift the boundary line between the American Seventh and British Eighth Armies west, thereby permitting him to advance on a broader front into central Sicily and sidestep the main centers of Axis resistance. The boundary change, which Alexander communicated to Patton just before midnight on 13 July, stripped Highway 124 away from Seventh Army and assigned it instead to the Eighth Army. Under the new instructions, a portion of the Eighth Army would advance up Highway 124 to Enna, the key road junction in central Sicily, before turning northeast toward Messina. In essence, Alexander was interposing British forces between the Americans and the Germans, allowing the Eighth Army to monopolize the primary approaches to Messina and giving it complete responsibility for the Allied main effort. With its original line of advance blocked, Seventh Army was thus relegated to protecting the Eighth Army's flank and rear from possible attack by Axis forces in western Sicily—a distinctly secondary mission.

The change in front was one of the most important and controversial operational decisions of the campaign. It clearly reflected the British belief that the veteran Eighth Army was better qualified to carry the main burden of the campaign than its junior partner from across the Atlantic. Indeed, the decision did little more than make explicit the priorities and assumptions that had

81-mm. mortars support Patton's drive on Palermo. (National Archives)

been implicit in the campaign plan all along. On the other hand, by ordering the Seventh Army to stop short of Highway 124 and redirecting its advance, Alexander lost momentum and provided the Axis valuable time to withdraw to a new defensive line between Catania and Enna. The loss of momentum was best illustrated by the repositioning of the 45th Division, which had to return almost to the shoreline before it could sidestep around the 1st Division and take up its new position for a northwestward advance. Given the circumstances, Alexander might have been better served by reinforcing success and shifting the main emphasis of the campaign to the Seventh Army. This was not his choice, however, and his decision stirred up a storm of controversy in the American camp.

Patton and his generals were furious. They had always assumed that the Seventh Army would be permitted to push beyond its initial Yellow and Blue objectives and into central and northern Sicily in order to accompany the Eighth Army on its drive toward Messina. After all, Alexander's vague preinvasion plans had never expressly ruled this out. Now that option had been eliminated and they felt slighted. Not content to accept a secondary role, Patton immediately cast about for an opportunity to have his army play a more decisive part in the campaign. The object which caught his eye was Palermo, Sicily's capital. Capture of this well-known city would not

only be a publicity coup, but it would also give his army a major port from which to base further operations along the northern coast.

Patton's first move was to coax Alexander into sanctioning a "reconnaissance" toward the town of Agrigento, several miles west of the 3d Division's current front line. That authorization was all General Truscott needed

several Italian formations plus four German divisions—the *1st Parachute,* the *Hermann Goering Panzer,* the *15th Panzer Grenadier,* and the newly arrived *29th Panzer Grenadier Division.*

There were just four narrow roads through the Etna Line, and only two of these actually went all the way to Messina. Possessing these vital arteries became the focal point of the campaign. General Alexander gave each of the Allied armies two roads for the advance on Messina. A portion of the Eighth Army was to advance along the Adrano-Randazzo road that skirted the western slopes of Mount Etna, while the remainder endeavored to drive north along the eastern coastal road, Route 114, to Messina. Alexander assigned the two northern roads to the American Seventh Army. The first, Route 120, ran through the interior of Sicily from Nicosia, through Troina, to Randazzo. The second, Highway 113, hugged the northern shoreline all the way to Messina.

It was Highway 113 that held Patton's interest, for it was his most direct route to Messina. Stung by the belief that Generals Alexander and Montgomery belittled the American Army, Patton was obsessed with the idea of reaching Messina before the British. "This is a horse race in which the prestige of the US Army is at stake," he wrote General Middleton. "We must take Messina before the British. Please use your best efforts to facilitate the success of our race."

The race got off to a slow start as the Germans skillfully exploited the mountainous terrain to cut the Allied advance to a crawl. Illness and the weather aided the Germans. Malaria and other fevers incapacitated over 10,000 soldiers. Heat exhaustion brought on by Sicily's 100-degree temperatures knocked additional G.I.s out of the ranks. The Seventh Army advanced two divisions abreast, with the 1st Infantry Division moving along Route 120 and General Middleton's 45th Infantry Division operating on the coast road. After Middleton's G.I.s captured Santo Stefano's "Bloody Ridge" on 30 July, Patton replaced them with General Truscott's 3d Division, allowing the men of the 45th time to rest and recuperate for their next assignment, the invasion of Italy.

Meanwhile, the 1st Infantry Division pushed its way eastward against stiffening German opposition, capturing Nicosia on the 28th before moving on to Troina. Patton planned to take the exhausted 1st Division out of the line once Troina fell. The mountain village, however, would prove to be the unit's toughest battle, as well as one of the most difficult fights of the entire Sicily Campaign. Troina constituted one of the main anchors of the Etna Line and was defended by the *15th Panzer Grenadier Division* and elements of the *Italian Aosta Division.* The Axis forces were deeply entrenched in hills that both dominated the approaches to the town and were difficult to outflank. The barren landscape, almost devoid of cover, made advancing American soldiers easy targets for Axis gunners.

The battle for Troina began on 31 July, when the Germans repulsed an advance by the 39th Infantry Regiment, a 9th Infantry Division outfit temporarily attached to the 1st Division. The setback forced Bradley and Allen to orchestrate a massive assault. Over the next six days the men of the 1st Infantry Division, together with elements of the 9th Division, a French Moroccan infantry battalion, 165 artillery pieces (divided among 9 battalions of 105-mm. howitzers, 6 battalions of 155-mm. howitzers, and 1 battalion of 155-mm. "Long Tom" guns), and numerous Allied aircraft, were locked in combat with Troina's tenacious defenders. Control of key hilltop positions see-

Troina. (National Archives)

sawed back and forth in vicious combat, with the Germans launching no fewer than two dozen counterattacks

to seize the city on 15 July. With Agrigento in hand, Patton was in a position to drive into northwestern Sicily, and on the 17th he traveled to Alexander's headquarters to argue for just such a course. Patton wanted to cut loose from the Eighth Army and launch his own, independent drive on Palermo while simultaneously sending Bradley's II Corps north to cut the island in two. Alexander reluctantly agreed, but later had second thoughts and sent Patton a revised set of orders instructing him to strike due north to protect Montgomery's flank rather than west. Seventh Army headquarters ignored Alexander's message claiming that it had been "garbled" in transmission, and by the time Alexander's instructions could be "clarified," Patton was already at Palermo's gates.

The Seventh Army met little opposition during its sweep through western Sicily. Guzzoni had recalled the *15th Panzer Grenadier Division* to central Sicily soon after the invasion, and the only troops left in the western portion of the island were Italians who, for the most part, showed little inclination to fight. While General Bradley's II Corps pushed north to cut the island in two east of Palermo, Patton organized the 2d Armored, 82d Airborne, and 3d Infantry Divisions into a provisional corps under Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes and sent it on a 100-mile dash to the Sicilian capital. Palermo fell in only seventy-two hours, and by 24 July the Seventh Army had taken control of the entire western half of the island, capturing 53,000 dispirited Italian soldiers and 400 vehicles at the loss of 272 men.

The fall of Palermo was quickly followed by even more startling news. Disenchanted by the long and costly war, Mussolini's opponents ousted the dictator from power on 25 July. Although the Allies had hoped that Operation HUSKY would destabilize the Fascist regime, the coup took them by surprise. Mussolini's downfall did not immediately terminate Italy's participation in the war. Nevertheless, the invasion of Sicily had acted as a catalyst in bringing about an important crack in the Rome-Berlin Axis.

Palermo's capitulation also coincided with the beginning of a new phase of the campaign. On 23 July Alexander ordered Patton to turn eastward toward Messina. Montgomery's drive had bogged down at Catania, and it was now apparent that the Eighth Army

was not going to be able to capture Messina on its own. Alexander, therefore, redrew the army boundaries once again, authorizing Patton to approach Messina from the west while Montgomery continued to push from the south.

The drive on Messina would not resemble Patton's quick, cavalry-like raid on Palermo. The city was protected by the most rugged terrain in Sicily, the Caronie Mountains and Mount Etna's towering eminence. In addition, the Germans had constructed a series of strongpoints, called the Etna Line, that ran from the vicinity of Catania on the east coast, around the southern base of Mount Etna, north to San Fratello on the island's northern shore. Here, in Sicily's rugged northeast corner, the Axis had decided to make its stand. But it was to be only a temporary stand, for while General Guzzoni still talked of defending Sicily to the end, Berlin had decided to withdraw gradually from the island. Guzzoni, his authority weakened by the disintegration of most of his Italian units, was not in a position to disagree. From this point forward General Hans Hube, commander of the newly formed *German XIV Panzer Corps,* and not Guzzoni, exercised real control over Axis forces in Sicily.

General Hube planned to withdraw slowly to the Etna Line where he would make a determined stand while simultaneously undertaking preliminary evacuation measures. Final evacuation would occur in phases, with each withdrawal matched by a progressive retreat to increasingly shorter defensive lines until all Axis troops had been ferried across the Strait of Messina to Italy. To accomplish this task, Hube had the remnants of

during the week-long battle.

The experience of Col. John Bowen's 26th Infantry Regiment was fairly typical of the action around Troina. The 26th's assignment was to outflank Troina by seizing Monte Basilio two miles north of town. From here, the regiment would be positioned to cut the Axis line of retreat. Bowen moved his soldiers forward on 2 August supported by the fire of 1 battalion of 155-mm. howitzers, 4 battalions of 105-mm. howitzers, and 4 "Long Tom" batteries. Despite this weighty arsenal, German artillery fire and difficult terrain limited the regiment's advance to half a mile. The next morning one of the regiment's battalions lost its bearings in the hilly terrain and wandered around ineffectually for the remainder of the day. A second battalion reached Monte Basilio with relatively little difficulty, only to be pounded by Axis artillery fire directed from neighboring hills. The *129th Panzer Grenadier Regiment* launched a major effort to retake the mountain that afternoon, but Bowen's riflemen and machine gunners, supported by the artillerymen in the rear, repulsed the attackers.

For the next two days Axis artillery and small arms fire kept the men on Monte Basilio pinned down. Determined to hold Troina for as long as possible, the Germans reacted strongly to the threat the 26th Regiment posed to their line of communications. Axis pressure practically cut off the men on Monte Basilio from the rest of the 1st Division, and attempts to resupply them by plane were only partially successful. By 5 August food and ammunition stores were low, and casualties had greatly depleted the regiment, with one company mustering only seventeen men effective for duty.

It was at this point that the German infantry attacked again, touching off another round of furious fighting. During the battle, Pvt. James W. Reese moved his mortar squad to a position from which he could effectively take the advancing German infantry under fire. The squad maintained a steady fire on the attackers until it began to run out of ammunition. With only three mortar rounds left, Reese ordered his crew to the rear while he advanced to a new position and knocked out a German machine gun with the last rounds. He then shouldered a rifle and continued to engage the enemy until killed by a barrage of hostile fire.

Through the efforts of men like Private Reese, the 26th Infantry successfully held its position. The United States recognized Reese's heroism posthumously by awarding him the Medal of Honor. The Germans acknowledged the 26th Regiment's gallant stand by evacuating Troina later that night. Hard pressed by American forces all along the Troina sector and unable to dislodge the 26th Regiment from its position threatening his line of retreat, General Hube withdrew the badly damaged *15th Panzer Grenadier Division* toward Randazzo. As the 9th Infantry Division took up the pursuit, the 1st Division retired for a well-deserved rest.

While the 1st Infantry Division battled for possession of Troina, General Truscott's 3d Division faced equally stiff opposition at San Fratello, the northern terminus of the Etna Line. Here the *29th Panzer Grenadier Division* had entrenched itself on a ridge overlooking the coastal highway. Truscott made repeated attempts to crack the San Fratello position beginning on 3 August, but failed to gain much ground. The strength of the German position prompted him to try and outflank it by an amphibious end run. On the night of 7-8 August, while the 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and 3d Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, seized a key hill along the San Fratello Line, Lt. Col. Lyle Bernard led the 2d Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, reinforced by two batteries from the 58th Armored Field Artillery Bat-

talion, a platoon of medium tanks, and a platoon of combat engineers, in an amphibious landing at Sant'Agata, a few miles behind San Fratello. The amphibious assault force achieved complete surprise and

quickly blocked the coastal highway. Unfortunately, the Germans had selected that night to withdraw from San Fratello, and most of their troops had already retired past Bernard's position by the time the Americans arrived. Nevertheless, the 3d Infantry Division's combined land and sea offensive bagged over 1,000 prisoners.

Allied pressure at Troina, San Fratello, and in the British sector had broken the Etna Line, but there would be no lightning exploitation of the victory. Taking maximum advantage of the constricting terrain and armed with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of mines, General Hube withdrew his XIV *Panzer Corps* in orderly phases toward Messina.

Patton made a second bid to trap the *29th Panzer Grenadier Division* on 11 August, when he sent Colonel Bernard on another amphibious end run, this time at Brolo. Once again Bernard's men achieved complete surprise, but they soon came under heavy pressure as the German units trapped by the landing tried to batter their way out. Bernard's group proved too small to keep the Germans bottled up, and by the time Truscott linked up with the landing force, the bulk of the *29th Panzer Grenadier Division* had escaped.

Time was now running out for the Allies. On 11 August, the day Patton launched the Brolo operation, General Hube began the full-scale evacuation of Sicily. Despite heroic feats by U.S. Army engineers in clearing minefields and repairing blown bridges, the Seventh Army was never quite able to catch the withdrawing Axis forces. A last amphibious end run by a regiment of the 45th Division on 16 August failed when the troops landed behind American, and not German, lines. By then the game was over. On the morning of 17 August, elements of the 3d Infantry Division's 7th Infantry Regiment entered Messina, just hours after the last Axis troops had boarded ship for Italy. The enemy had escaped, but the Seventh Army quickly brought reinforcements into the port, in the words of 3d Division assistant commander Brig. Gen. William Eagles, "to see that the British did not capture the city from us after we had taken it." Shortly after Patton accepted the city's surrender, a column of British vehicles slowly wound its way through Messina's crooked streets. Spotting General Patton, the commander of the British column walked over and offered his hand in congratulations. Patton had won his race.

A bunker covers the beach near Sant'Agata. (National Archives)

Analysis

The American soldier had much to be proud of in the Sicily Campaign. With the exception of those units which had taken part in the Tunisia Campaign, especially the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions, few American formations employed in Sicily began the campaign with any combat experience, and their abilities were still unknown. But the American troops had done well. After landing on a hostile shore, they had repelled several counterattacks, forced the enemy to withdraw, and relentlessly pursued him over sun-baked hills until the island was theirs. In thirty-eight days they and their British colleagues had killed or wounded approximately 29,000 enemy soldiers and captured over 140,000 more. In contrast, American losses totaled 2,237 killed and 6,544 wounded and captured. The British suffered 12,843 casualties, including 2,721 dead.

Sicily was also a victory for the logistician and the staff planner. Although overshadowed by the Normandy invasion a year later, Operation HUSKY was actually the largest amphibious operation of World War II in terms of the size of the landing zone and the number of divisions put ashore on the first day of the invasion. The am-

phibious operation, as well as the subsequent logistical effort, marked a clear triumph of American staff work and interservice cooperation. Army-Navy cooperation was particularly good, and the fire support provided by Allied naval vessels played a critical role in overcoming Axis resistance, especially around Gela.

The Sicily Campaign also marked the first time in World War II that a complete U.S. field army had fought as a unit. With over 200,000 men in its ranks by the time it reached Messina, the American Seventh Army employed the services of more than 150 different types of units, from infantry regiments to graves registration companies. The final victory was achieved only through the cooperation and collaboration of thousands of individuals from every branch of service.

Strategically, the Sicilian operation achieved the goals set out for it by Allied planners at Casablanca. Axis air and naval forces were driven from their island bastion and the Mediterranean sea lanes were opened to Allied commerce. Hitler had been forced to transfer troops to Sicily and Italy from other theaters, and Mussolini had been toppled from power, thereby opening the way for the eventual dissolution of the Rome-Berlin Axis and Italy's ultimate surrender. Although U.S. military leaders had not initially planned to use Sicily as a springboard for an invasion of Italy, the impact of the operation on the tottering Fascist regime begged exploitation, and the Allies quickly followed up their victory by invading Italy in September 1943.

Yet for all its achievements, the Sicily Campaign also demonstrated some weaknesses in Allied capabilities, particularly in the realm of joint operations. None of the Allied commanders had much experience in joint air-land-sea operations, and consequently the three services did not always work together as well as they might have. Ground commanders complained about the lack of close air support and the inaccuracy of airborne drops, air commanders complained of their aircraft's being fired upon by Allied ground and naval forces, and naval officers chided the land commanders for not fully exploiting the fleet's amphibious capabilities to outflank the enemy once the campaign had begun. Similarly, General Alexander's unfortunate decision to broaden the Eighth Army's front at the expense of the Seventh Army can be attributed to the newness of combined operations, for the decision reflected the British Army's proclivity to underestimate American military capabilities—an attitude that American G.I.s proved unjustified during the Sicily Campaign.

One consequence of this lack of integration within the Allied camp was that the Axis was able to evacuate over 100,000 men and 10,000 vehicles from Sicily during the first seventeen days in August. The failure of Allied air and naval forces to interdict the Strait of Messina was due in large part to the fact that neither Eisenhower nor his principal air, land, and sea commanders had formulated a coordinated plan to prevent the withdrawal of Axis forces from the island.

The escape of Axis forces from Sicily is also attributable to the conservative attitude of Allied commanders. They had opted for the most cautious invasion plan, massing their forces at the most predictable landing site. They never seriously considered the bolder option of launching simultaneous attacks on Messina and Calabria, the "toe" of Italy, to trap all Axis forces in Sicily in one blow. Their conservativeness was somewhat justified, for multinational amphibious operations of this magnitude had never been attempted before, and the initial landings would have been outside of the range of Allied fighter cover. Nevertheless, the advantages to be gained by taking the enemy by surprise and destroying an entire Axis army would seem to have merited greater attention by Allied strategists than it received.

The fundamental reason why the Messina-Calabria option was not seriously considered had to do with grand strategy, not operational considerations. At Casablanca the Allies had agreed only to invade Sicily, not Italy, and U.S. leaders had clearly stated their opposition to anything that might further delay a cross-Channel attack. A landing in Italy, even a local one intended purely to assist the Sicily Campaign, threatened to open

the very Pandora's box Marshall wanted to avoid. Of course in the end, the Allies invaded Italy anyway, only to be confronted by the same German troops who had made good their escape from Sicily. But in the spring of 1943, coalition politics ruled out a Calabrian envelopment, and Allied planners confined themselves to a narrow, frontal assault in southeastern Sicily.

Sicily was thus an important victory for the Allies, but not a decisive one. Coalition politics and the innate conservativeness of men who were still learning how to work the intricate machinery of joint, multinational operations tied Allied armies to a strategy which achieved the physical objective while letting the quarry escape. Nevertheless, Axis forces did not escape unscathed, and the experience Allied commanders gained in orchestrating airborne, amphibious, and ground combat operations during the campaign would serve them well in the months ahead, first in Italy and then at Normandy.

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Further Readings

The most comprehensive treatments of the campaign can be found in two books, Albert N. Garland and Howard McGaw Smyth, *Sicily and the Surrender of Italy* (1965) and Carlo D'Este, *Bitter Victory, The Battle for Sicily, 1943* (1988). Allied airborne operations are the subject of William Breuer, *Drop Zone Sicily* (1983). Also useful are S. W. C. Pack, *Operation "Husky, " The Allied Invasion of Sicily* (1977), Samuel Eliot Morison, *Sicily-Salerno-Anzio* (1954), Hugh Pond, *Sicily* (1962), Omar Bradley, *A Soldier's Story* (1951), Lucian Truscott, *Command Missions* (1954), W. G. F. Jackson, *The Battle for Italy* (1967), George Patton, *War As I Knew It* (1947), Trumbull Higgins, *Soft Underbelly* (1968), John Eisenhower, *Allies* (1982), Martin Blumenson, *The Patton Papers,* volume 2 (1974), and William Darby, *Darby's Rangers: We Led the Way* (1980). For the official British and Canadian views of the campaign, see C. J. C. Molony, *The Mediterranean and Middle East,* volume 5 (1973), and G. W. L. Nicholson, *The Canadians in Italy, 1943-45* (1967).

CMH Pub 72-16

Cover: *3d Infantry Division troops move along a cliffside road destroyed by the Germans at Cape Calava.* (National Archives)

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Last updated 3 October 2003

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http://FreeDD214.com

INSTRUCTION SHEET
DD Form 214 – Do It Yourself

Dear Client,

Thank you for visiting our site! We truly appreciate the opportunity to offer you our services.

Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain **free** copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records from the Government. The Government **can take several weeks to months to process** mail or faxed-in requests. If you have no immediate need for your DD 214, this method may be your best option.

However, once you place your order with the Government, you will most likely make your records inaccessible to anyone else for a period of weeks. This situation also occurs when another agency requests your record. Once your record is removed from the shelves, it cannot be accessed again until it is returned – perhaps weeks later. So, consider processing your request through the Government very carefully. Once you place your order with them, you most likely won't be able to "go back" or "do over" and order your DD214 for prompt delivery.

Do It Yourself Service - Instructions

We've included Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. This form has complete instructions and provides locations where, once completed and signed, you can mail it. You may be able to shave a day or two off the processing time by faxing the signed and completed form to the NPRC at: **314-801-9195**. The NPRC handles generally pre-1995 separations.

Separations after 1995 are usually handled by the military branches themselves. Be sure to check the instructions on the SF180 to make sure you are sending your Request to the proper facility. Should there be any problems, if you send or fax your Request to NPRC, NPRC will respond to you in writing by U.S. Mail. If you send your Request to them by mistake, they may forward your request to the proper agency, OR respond to you with the address of the proper agency to which you should send your Request. This back-and-forth correspondence may add days or weeks to the process.

OR ezDD214.com – Alternative

ezDD214.com (Click HERE), a private company, puts a new electronic spin on the processing of your SF 180. For less than $10, ezDD214.com guarantees to submit your SF 180 to the correct facility the first time. And, better yet, with their patent pending eSign service, if you don't have a printer or fax, no printer or fax is required. There's nothing to printout, mail or fax to anyone anywhere. Their entire submission process is conducted purely electronically, entirely and completely Net based.

***Express Service* (Optional)**

If you REQUIRE your DD 214 within a more definite time period, today or tomorrow, or within one week, you should consider Touchstone Research Group, a private research company, and their DD 214 *Express Service*. They have researchers at all of the locations where your DD 214 may be kept so that they – in many cases - can retrieve your file the very day you request it, and they will deliver your DD214 faster than anyone else, guaranteed. Before ordering, be sure to read their FAQ for common questions. Express services of this type usually cost in the range $79 - $119.

You can order their DD214 *Express Service* at http://dd214express.com

Thank You!

INSTRUCTION AND INFORMATION SHEET FOR SF 180, REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

1. General Information. The Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records (SF180) is used to request information from military records. Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please try to answer each item on the SF 180. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available". Include as much of the requested information as you can. Incomplete information may delay response time. To determine where to mail this request see Page 2 of the SF180 for record locations and facility addresses.

Online requests may be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) by a veteran or deceased veteran's next-of-kin using eVetRecs at http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/ .

2. Personnel Records/Military Human Resource Records/Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and Medical Records/Service Treatment Records (STR). Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **LESS THAN 62 YEARS AGO** and medical records are in the legal custody of the military service department and are administered in accordance with rules issued by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, Coast Guard). STRs of persons on active duty are generally kept at the local servicing clinic. After the last day of active duty, STRs should be requested from the appropriate address on page 2 of the SF 180. (See item 3, Archival Records, if the military member was discharged, retired or died in service more than 62 years ago.)

a. Release of information: Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations, the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act of 1974. The service member (either past or present) or the member's legal guardian has access to almost any information contained in that member's own record. The authorization signature of the service member or the member's legal guardian is needed in Section III of the SF180. Others requesting information from military personnel records and/or STRs must have the release authorization in Section III of the SF 180 signed by the member or legal guardian. If the appropriate signature cannot be obtained, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, the surviving next-of-kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the general public. The next-of-kin may be any of the following: unremarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Requesters **MUST provide proof of death, such as a copy of a death certificate, newspaper article (obituary) or death notice, coroner's report of death, funeral director's signed statement of death, or verdict of coroner's jury.**

b. Fees for records: There is no charge for most services provided to service members or next-of-kin of deceased veterans. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances, service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee, you will receive an invoice with your records.

3. Archival Records. Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **62 OR MORE YEARS AGO** have been transferred to the legal custody of NARA and are referred to as "archival records".

a. Release of Information: Archival records are open to the public. The Privacy Act of 1974 does not apply to archival records, therefore, written authorization from the veteran or next-of-kin is not required. In order to protect the privacy of the veteran, his/her family, and third parties named in the records, the personal privacy exemption of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (6)) may still apply and may preclude the release of some information.

b. Fees for Archival Records: Access to archival records are granted by offering copies of the records for a fee (44 U.S.C. 2116 (c)). If a fee applies to the photocopies of documents in the requested record, you will receive an invoice. Photocopies will be sent after payment is made. For more information see http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/military-personnel-archival/ompf-archival-requests.html.

4. Where reply may be sent. The reply may be sent to the service member or any other address designated by the service member or other authorized requester. If the designated address is NOT registered to the addressee by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), provide BOTH the addressee's name AND "in care of" (c/o) the name of the person to whom the address is registered on the NAME line in Section III, item 3, on page 1 of the SF 180. The COMPLETE address must be provided, INCLUDING any apartment/suite/unit/lot/space/etc. number.

5. Definitions and abbreviations. DISCHARGED -- the individual has no current military status; SERVICE TREATMENT RECORD (STR) -- The chronology of medical, mental health, and dental care received by service members during the course of their military career (does not include records of treatment while hospitalized); TDRL – Temporary Disability Retired List.

6. Service completed before World War I. National Archives Trust Fund (NATF) forms must be used to request these records. Obtain the forms by e-mail from *inquire@nara.gov* or write to the Code 6 address on page 2 of the SF 180.

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

The following information is provided in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and applies to this form. Authority for collection of the information is 44 U.S.C. 2907, 3101, and 3103, and Public Law 104-134 (April 26, 1996), as amended in title 31, section 7701. Disclosure of the information is voluntary. If the requested information is not provided, it may delay servicing your inquiry because the facility servicing the service member's record may not have all of the information needed to locate it. The purpose of the information on this form is to assist the facility servicing the records (see the address list) in locating the correct military service record(s) or information to answer your inquiry. This form is then retained as a record of disclosure. The form may also be disclosed to Department of Defense components, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, U.S. Coast Guard), or the National Archives and Records Administration when the original custodian of the military health and personnel records transfers all or part of those records to that agency. If the service member was a member of the National Guard, the form may also be disclosed to the Adjutant General of the appropriate state, District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, where he or she served.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be five minutes per request, including time for reviewing instructions and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to National Archives and Records Administration (ISSD), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. *DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.* SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS LISTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE SF 180.

The various categories of military service records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. Please refer to the Instruction and Information Sheet accompanying this form as needed.

BRANCH	CURRENT STATUS OF SERVICE MEMBER	Personnel Record	Medical or Service Treatment Record
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 9/30/2004	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2004 – 12/31/2013	1	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	1	13
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay	1	
	Reserve, IRR, Retired Reserve in non-pay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in the Air Force, or National Guard released from active duty in the Air Force	2	
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the Air Force	2	13
COAST GUARD	Discharge , deceased, or retired before 1/1/1898	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1898 – 3/31/1998	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 4/1/1998 – 9/30/2006	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2006 – 9/30/2013	3	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/1/2013	3	14
	Active, Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve or TDRL	3	
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1895	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 – 4/30/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 12/31/1998	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1999 - 12/31/2013	4	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	4	8
	Individual Ready Reserve	5	
	Active, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, TDRL	4	
ARMY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 11/1/1912 (enlisted) or before 7/1/1917 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 11/1/1912 – 10/15/1992 (enlisted) or 7/1/1917 – 10/15/1992 (officer)	14	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/16/1992 – 9/30/2002	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) 10/1/2002 – 12/31/2013	7	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) on or after 1/1/2014	7	9
	Current Soldier (Active, Reserve (including Individual Ready Reserve) or National Guard)	7	
NAVY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1886 (enlisted) or before 1/1/1903 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1886 – 1/30/1994 (enlisted) or 1/1/1903 – 1/30/1994 (officer)	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/31/1994 – 12/31/1994	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1995 – 12/31/2013	10	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	10	8
	Active, Reserve, or TDRL	10	
PHS	Public Health Service - Commissioned Corps officers only	12	

ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS and SELF-SERVICE WEBSITES (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) – Where to write/send this form

1 Air Force Personnel Center
HQ AFPC/DPSIRP
550 C Street West, Suite 19
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4721

2 Air Reserve Personnel Center
Records Management Branch (DPTSC)
18420 E. Silver Creek Avenue
Building 390 MS 68
Buckley AFB, CO 80011

3 Commander, Personnel Service Center
(BOPS-C-MR) MS7200
US Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7200
MR_CustomerService@uscg.mil

4 Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
Manpower Management Records & Performance
(MMRP-10)
2008 Elliot Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5030

5 Marine Forces Reserve
2000 Opelousas Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70146-5400

6 National Archives & Records Administration
Research Services (RDT1R)
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

7 US Army Human Resources Command's web page:
https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Accessing%20or%20Requesting%20Your%20Official%20Military%20Personnel%20File%20Documents
or 1-888-ARMYHRC (1-888-276-9472)

8 Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA)
BUMED Detachment St. Louis
4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, Building 103
St. Louis, MO 63120

9 AMEDD Record Processing Center
3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116
San Antonio, TX 78217

10 Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3120

11 Department of Veterans Affairs
Records Management Center
ATTN: Release of Information
P.O. Box 5020
St. Louis, MO 63115-5020

12 Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support
ATTN: Records Officer
1101 Wooton Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20852

13 AF STR Processing Center
ATTN: Release of Information
3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116
San Antonio, TX 78217

14 National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138-1002

*e*VetRecs:
http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

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REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests from veterans or deceased veteran's next-of-kin may be submitted online by using eVetRecs at http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS *(Furnish as much information as possible.)*

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)	2. SOCIAL SECURITY #	3. DATE OF BIRTH	4. PLACE OF BIRTH

5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT *(For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)*

	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")
a. ACTIVE	–			☐	☐	
b. RESERVE	–			☐	☐	
c. STATE NATIONAL GUARD	–			☐	☐	

6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? ☐ NO ☐ YES - ***MUST*** *provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased:* _____

7. DID THIS PERSON RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE? ☐ NO ☐ YES

SECTION II – INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

☐ **DD Form 214 or equivalent.** Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran: _____

This form contains information normally needed to verify military service. A copy may be sent to the veteran, the deceased veteran's next-of-kin, or other persons or organizations, if authorized in Section III, below. **An UNDELETED DD214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits.** If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost.

An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box: ☐ I want a **DELETED** copy.

☐ **Medical Records** Includes Service Treatment Records, Health (outpatient) and Dental Records. ***IF HOSPITALIZED (inpatient)*** *the FACILITY NAME and DATE (month and year) for EACH admission* ***MUST*** *be provided:* _____

☐ **Other** (Specify): _____

2. PURPOSE: (Providing information about the purpose of the request is **strictly voluntary;** however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)

☐ Benefits (explain) ☐ Employment ☐ VA Loan Programs ☐ Medical ☐ Genealogy ☐ Correction ☐ Personal ☐ Other (explain)

Explain here: _____

SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

1. REQUESTER NAME: _____

2. ☐ I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.

☐ I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN ***(MUST submit Proof of Death.*** *See item 2a on instruction sheet.)*

\- _____
(Relationship to deceased veteran)

☐ I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN ***(MUST submit copy of Court Appointment)*** or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE ***(MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney)***

☐ OTHER _____
(Specify type of Other)

3. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO:
(Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)

Name

Street Apt.

City State Zip Code

* This form is available at ***http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html*** on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site. *

4. AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE: I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section III is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. *(See items 2a or 3a on accompanying instruction sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request if for archival records.)*

Signature Required - Do not print **Date**

Daytime phone Fax Number

Email address

Lineage And Honors Information

26TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Lineage and Honors Information as of 28 March 2008

26th Infantry Regiment Lineage

Constituted 2 February 1901 in the Regular Army as the 26th Infantry

Organized 22 February 1901 with Headquarters at Fort McPherson, Georgia

(1st Battalion organized in December 1900 at the Presidio of San Francisco, California, as the 1st Provisional Battalion of Infantry; redesignated 7 February 1901 as the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry)

(2d Battalion organized March-April 1901 at Fort McPherson, Georgia; redesignated 29 May 1901 as the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry -- hereafter separate lineage; new 2d Battalion, 26th Infantry, organized 1 July 1901 in the Philippine Islands)

(3d Battalion organized in January 1901 at the Presidio of San Francisco, California, as the 2d Provisional Battalion of Infantry; redesignated 8 February 1901 as the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry; redesignated 29 May 1901 as the 3d Battalion, 26th Infantry)

Assigned 8 June 1917 to the 1st Expeditionary Division (later redesignated as the 1st Infantry Division)

Relieved 15 February 1957 from assignment to the 1st Infantry Division and reorganized as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System

Withdrawn 3 April 1987 from the Combat Arms Regimental System, reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System, and transferred to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

Withdrawn 15 January 1996 from the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

Redesignated 1 October 2005 as the 26th Infantry Regiment

26th Infantry Regiment Honors

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Philippine Insurrection: Streamer without inscription

World War I: Montdidier-Noyon; Aisne-Marne; St. Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne; Lorraine 1917; Lorraine 1918; Picardy 1918

World War II: Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead); Tunisia; Sicily (with arrowhead); Normandy (with arrowhead); Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe

Vietnam: Defense; Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase II; Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970

War on Terrorism: Iraq

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered STOLBERG

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered AP GU

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SAMARRA, IRAQ

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SAMARRA, IRAQ (OCT-NOV 2004)

Army Superior Unit Award, Streamer embroidered 1996-1997

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War I, Streamer embroidered AISNE-MARNE

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War I, Streamer embroidered MEUSE-ARGONNE

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered KASSERINE

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered NORMANDY

French Medaille Militaire, Fourragere

Belgian Fourragere 1940

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at Mons

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at Eupen-Malmedy

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Return to Branch Index

Rita Brown and Bill Beigel

1 message

Bill Beigel <bill.beigel@ww2research.com> Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 1:56 PM
To: Rita Brown <bookishbrown@gmail.com>

Event Name: 30 Minute Research Consultation

Please select a date and time to discuss your WW2 research case. There is no charge for this call with me; i look forward to talking with you. Best, Bill

Location: I'll call you

What is the best number to reach you during our call time?: 419-485-3080
What is the name of the person you would like to research?: Ray Martin Copley

Need to make changes to this event?
Cancel: https://calendly.com/cancellations/FGPYUMWL7Z5WA3VO
Reschedule: https://calendly.com/reschedulings/FGPYUMWL7Z5WA3VO

invite.ics
3K

Search mail

Compose

Inbox

Starred

Snoozed

Important

Meet

Start a meeting

Join a meeting

Hangouts

Rita

No Hangouts contacts

Find someone

FW: New Event: SGT Ray M. Copley - 10:

Bill Beigel

Dear Rita: I'm looking forward to our call tomorrow, Thursday, July

Rita Brown <bookishbrown@gmail.com>

to Bill

Am looking forward also

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2020, at 4:35 PM, Bill Beigel <bill.beigel@ww2research.c

> Dear Rita:
>
> I'm looking forward to our call tomorrow, Thursday, July 23, at
>
> I will call you on 419-485-3080.
>
> Sincerely, Bill
>
> Bill Beigel
> **WW2 Research Inc**
> Bill.Beigel@WW2Research.com
> 310.791.3949 | WW2Research.com
> <image003.png>

Reply Forward

Compose

Inbox

Starred

Snoozed

Important

Meet

Start a meeting

Join a meeting

Hangouts

Tina

No recent Hangouts
Find someone

FW: New Event: SGT Ray M. Copley - 10:

Bill Bolger

Dear Rita, I'm looking forward to our call tomorrow. Thursday, July

Rita Brown <beatricebrown@gmail.com>
to Bill

Am looking forward also!

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2020, at 4:35 PM, Bill Bolger <bill.bolger@wvz.com> wrote:

Dear Rita

I'm looking forward to our call tomorrow, Thursday, July 23, at

I will call you on 419-485-3090

Sincerely, Bill

Bill Bolger
WVZ Research Inc
Bill.Bolger@WVZResearch.com
310-791-3949 | WVZResearch.com

Reply

Forward

ancestry

Ray Martin COPLEY

BIRTH 22 AUG 1919 • Ohio
DEATH 25 JUL 1943
uncle

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**
22 Aug 1919 • Ohio

Age 1 — **Birth** *(Alternate)*
abt 1921 • Ohio

Age 3 — **Birth of Brother George Elwood COPLEY** (1923–2001)
abt 1923 • Ohio

Age 3 — **Birth of Brother George Elwood COPLEY** (1923–2001)
09 Jan 1923 • Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 4 — **Birth of Sister Mary Jane COPLEY** (1924–1924)
07 Mar 1924 • Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio, USA

Age 4 — **Death of Sister Mary Jane COPLEY** (1924–1924)
04 Apr 1924 • Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio, USA

Age 6 — **Birth of Brother Charles C. COPLEY** (1926–1976)
abt 1926 • Ohio

Age 6 — **Birth of Brother Charles C. COPLEY** (1926–1976)
22 Jan 1926 • 5536 Auburn Ave., Portsmouth, Scioto, Ohio, USA

Age 7 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
02 Jun 1927 • Ohio

Age 7 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
02 Jun 1927 • Ohio, United States

Age 8 — **Birth of Sister Martha June COPLEY** (1927–1980)
abt 1928 • Ohio

Family

Parents

Clyde R. COPLEY
1894–1967

Cora Isabelle MARTIN
1897–1956

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources

1930 United States Federal Census

1940 United States Federal Census

Ancestry Family Trees

U.S. Rosters of World War II Dead, 1939-1945

U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963

U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Other Sources

Ancestry Family Trees

Web Links

World War II Young American Patriots, 1941-1945
https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8941/wv1-0009

Age 10 — **Birth of Sister Charlotte Marvelee COPLEY** (1929–2005)
13 Dec 1929 • Sciotoville, Ohio

Age 10 — **Birth of Sister Charlotte Marvelee COPLEY** (1929–2005)
abt 1930 • Ohio

Age 11 — **Residence**
1930 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio

Age 11 — **Residence**
1930 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head: Son

Age 12 — **Birth of Sister Joyce Alberta COPLEY** (1932–2015)
25 Mar 1932 • Ohio

Age 12 — **Birth of Sister Joy Roberta COPLEY** (1932–1939)
25 Mar 1932 • Ohio

Age 15 — **Birth of Brother Clarence "Robert" COPLEY** (1934–2008)
7 Oct 1934 • Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 16 — **Residence**
1935 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio

Age 20 — **Death of Sister Joy Roberta COPLEY** (1932–1939)
7 Sep 1939 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, United States

Age 20 — **Residence**
1 Apr 1940 • Porter, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 20 — **Birth of Sister Wanda Jean COPLEY** (1940–2019)
14 May 1940 • Ohio, United States

Age 21 — **Military**
04 Mar 1941 • Huntington, Cabell, West Virginia, USA
Ray enlisted in the army as a Private in the Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers

Age 21 — **Military**
04 Mar 1941
World War II - 26 Inf. Reg 1st Div. USAGF

Age 23 — **Military**
25 Jul 1943
Sgt. Ray M. Copley KIA in World War II. 26 Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, U.S. Army.

Age 23 — **Death**
25 Jul 1943

Burial
1943 • Wheelersburg, Scioto County, Ohio, USA
Vernon Cemetery

Burial
Wheelersburg, Ohio, United States

Burial
Wheelersburg, Scioto, Ohio, USA
Vernon Cemetery

Residence
Wheelersburg, Scioto, Ohio
Relative Relation to Head: Father

Residence
Scioto, Ohio